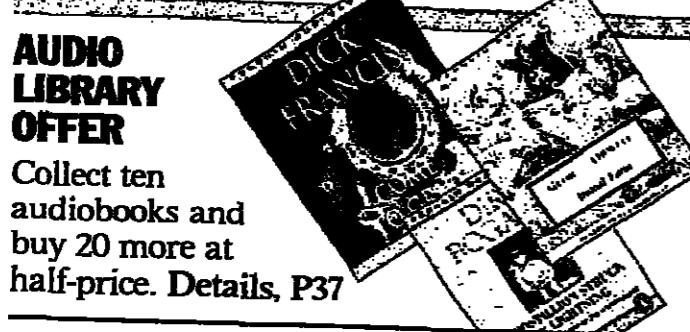


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PETER TREVOR

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Children may be particularly at risk

New infection linked to mad cow disease

By PHILIP WEBSTER AND JEREMY LAURENCE

THE Government admitted for the first time yesterday that "mad cow" disease could be transmitted to people.

A new strain of the human form of the disease has been identified and the Government's chief adviser on the subject said that it could turn into an epidemic.

The new findings, which relate to ten people suffering from a form of Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease, were reported to ministers this week, prompting tighter controls on slaughtering cattle and a call for urgent guidance on whether children can safely eat beef.

CJD, which usually affects the elderly, is similar to Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE), or "mad cow" disease, but for the past decade the Government has refused to accept that it could be triggered by BSE.

Now, however, research into the ten cases has suggested a link and raised the prospect that the variant may be a wholly new disease. The patients were all under 42 and their symptoms were different from those of typical CJD.

Government experts said there was no way of telling how virulent the new condition would be or how many people would be susceptible.

Dr John Pattison, chairman of the committee advising the Government on BSE, said that he had never seen the variant before. "It is totally unpredictable, but at one extreme there is a risk of an epidemic." And Dr Robert Will, head of the CJD Surveillance Centre, said: "I believe this is a new

phenomenon. There is reason for major concern."

The new findings were reported provisionally to the Prime Minister on Monday and officially to the Cabinet yesterday morning. By then, the Government had arranged two Commons statements and a press conference attended by ministers and medical experts.

The evidence will also be presented to EU veterinary experts in Brussels on Friday. Brussels has threatened Germany with legal action if it went ahead with a ban on British beef, but there were immediate fears yesterday that the disclosure could damage the industry.

In his Commons statement, Stephen Dorrell said that there was still no scientific proof that "mad cow" disease could be transmitted to man by beef, but he announced further urgent research into possible links between BSE and CJD. The Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory

Committee was being asked to report on the risks to children by the weekend.

Mr Dorrell said: "The scientific evidence for the risks of developing CJD in those eating meat in childhood has not changed. However, parents will be concerned and I have asked the committee to provide specific advice."

As Tory MPs voiced concern about the effect on the beef trade, the Health Secretary said that it was as important "for us not to overreact as it is for us not to underreact."

But Labour's Harriet Harman said: "The time has passed for false reassurance. The question of whether there is a link between BSE and CJD is an issue of immense importance for consumers and particularly for parents of young children. The situation remains uncertain. But it's now apparent there has been too much reassurance and too little action."

And later a junior Scottish minister admitted that the Government may have been to blame for some farmers not slaughtering BSE-infected cattle in the late 1980s. The Earl of Lindsay conceded that the Government may have "unwittingly" tempted farmers not to destroy infected animals by failing to offer full compensation between 1986 and 1989.

"In retrospect we possibly unwittingly allowed the temptation that some farmers may

Continued on page 2, col 8

WHEN a barmaid at Banbury cattle market warned a customer against eating her beef sandwiches yesterday, it wasn't "mad cow" disease that she had in mind. "I'm afraid the beef's a bit fatty. I'd go for the ham or the egg if I

vector, Jim Watson, had switched off his mobile phone to enable him to work after a stream of calls from worried farmers. "It's the same every time we have a BSE scare," he said. "Prices are down and it will be worse tomorrow when we sell the fat cattle that are ready for slaughter. I've been getting lots of calls from farmers wondering whether it's worth coming to sell their livestock tomorrow."

According to Mr Watson, whose market is the biggest in Europe, prices for a beef steer worth £500 were down by £10.

Like every beef farmer, Mr

Watson believes that the meat is "100 per cent safe". He said: "This is disastrous for us. Only a handful of people die from CJD yet all this fuss is made and the public react. The Government should concentrate on big killers like cancer and heart disease."

But as Mr Watson tried to generate interest in a frightened friesian, farmer John Elkington declared: "I'm keeping my hands in my pockets today. I'll not be bidding."

Mr Elkington, who farms in Bicester, added: "I rang up my exporters this morning to

see what they wanted and they just said don't bother. They might not even want the stuff I bought from them last week which has already been slaughtered. It'll just have to stay in the deep freeze."

Rachel Fyfe, 30, who farms with her husband in Market Harborough, studied the collapse of the beef market after BSE while a student at the Royal Agricultural College in Cirencester. She said: "The Government are just covering their backsides, but they know that the research is also tenuous. Until it is ever proved beyond all doubt, they

should not scare people like this; after all there is a risk in everything we eat."

"We will lose so much money, both in the domestic and the export industry. The rest of Europe claims it doesn't have BSE, but it's pretty likely that farmers in Europe have it and quietly get rid of the affected cows."

But one 71-year-old man who has been in beef farming all his life, said: "People who will be put off by this will have already stopped eating beef, but most will continue to enjoy it. There's nothing like a juicy piece of roast beef."

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Nerd door, in ring one, farmers were counting the cost of Stephen Dorrell's equally frank revelation that there might after all be a risk of humans contracting CJD from infected meat.

The market's managing di-

rector, Jim Watson, had switched off his mobile phone to enable him to work after a stream of calls from worried farmers. "It's the same every time we have a BSE scare," he said. "Prices are down and it will be worse tomorrow when we sell the fat cattle that are ready for slaughter. I've been getting lots of calls from farmers wondering whether it's worth coming to sell their livestock tomorrow."

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Drug dealers face six years minimum

By RICHARD FORD
HOME CORRESPONDENT

PERSISTENT burglars face a minimum of three years in prison and repeat drug dealers at least six years under tough new sentencing plans being proposed by Michael Howard.

The Home Secretary is also to end the practice by which the length of time a prisoner spends on remand is automatically included as part of a jail sentence. Instead, the judges will be given discretion to take the months on remand into account when imposing a sentence.

Prisoners will be allowed to earn a maximum of about 17 per cent remission of their sentences through good behaviour while in jail under the changes.

However, it is Mr Howard's plan to bring in minimum sentences of three years for people convicted of burglary three times and at least six years for those convicted twice of dealing in Class A drugs that will bring a sharp rise in the prison population. Class A drugs include heroin, cocaine and LSD. It has been estimated that the overall effect of Mr Howard's sentencing proposals will be to increase the jail population, now at a record 54,000, by at least 10,000.

Twelve jails each holding 800 prisoners and costing a total of more than £1.2 billion will need to be built to cater for the impact of the sentencing proposals. They will all be built by private finance and

are in addition to new jails already planned for Fazakerley in Liverpool, Bridgend in South Wales, Telford in the Midlands, Salford in Greater Manchester and another in Essex.

Minimum jail terms will apply only to offenders convicted of crimes committed after the new sentencing regime starts and the Government believes the full effect of the proposals will not be reached until 2013.

The measures will be phased in. Automatic life sentences for second-time rapists and armed robbers will be introduced first, followed by real-time sentences and finally the minimum jail terms for burglars and drug dealers.

Station offers first class marriage lines

THE platform announcement came 50 years too late for the couple from *Brief Encounter* but yesterday a British railway station unveiled plans to conduct marriage ceremonies.

Couples can now hop on a Eurostar for a Paris honeymoon after tying the knot at Ashford International station. The £265 ceremonies, to be conducted in Ashford's first class departure lounge, were announced when Kent County Council agreed to grant Eurostar a licence to hold civil weddings. There is room for up to 60 guests in the navy and orange room.

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Denis and Leslie Compton, Jack and Bobby Charlton and Philip and Gary Neville

before he had played a full season in the Premiership. Philip, who was 19 in January, has risen even more quickly, coming into the squad three months after establishing himself in the United team. They are inheritors of a proud tradition dating back to the 1970s, when Sheffield Wednesday's Clegg brothers, Charles and William, won caps in 1972 and 1973 respectively. Over the

team. They are inheritors of a proud tradition dating back to the 1970s, when Sheffield Wednesday's Clegg brothers, Charles and William, won caps in 1972 and 1973 respectively. Over the

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Vital questions for consumer safety

Is it safe to eat beef after the latest scientific findings?

The Government insists that it is. Even if there is now evidence that BSE can pass to humans, they say, the public remains protected because all the parts of the carcass that could conceivably carry infection have to be removed at the slaughterhouse before beef goes into the food chain. The prohibited items are brain, spine, thymus, tonsils, spleen and intestine.

Are the slaughterhouse controls adequate?

They had to be tightened last November after some abattoirs were found to be not fully removing spinal cord. Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Minister, says they are now to be tightened further. Also, any meat from animals over 30 months old will have to be deboned in specially licensed plants, a requirement previously only for exported meat.

What, if anything, can beef eaters do to protect themselves?

Those who want 100 per cent assurance of safety should stop eating beef, although this is not as easy as it seems. Material from cattle can find its way into products as diverse as chicken soup, wine sauce, lamb stock cubes and jellies. Food manufacturers insist, however, that they do not use any of the prohibited items.

Are some types of beef safer than others?

Most scientists say good steak or roast beef carries little if any risk. Only 15 per cent of pure beef herds have ever had BSE and BSE has never been found in the muscle meat of cattle. But much of Britain's meat comes from dairy cows. Half of all dairy herds have been affected by BSE. Dairy meat tends to go into cheaper products, such as pâtés and meat pies. Those who want to play safe while still eating beef should avoid meat products of whose origin they cannot be sure.

Is any age group more at risk?

CJD, the human counterpart to BSE, has traditionally been a rare disease of the elderly, affecting about one in a million people worldwide. In recent years, an unusually large proportion of CJD cases in Britain has occurred in people under 42. It is the ten CJD cases from this age group that the Government now says were probably caused by eating BSE-infected meat.

When did the infection occur?

Between 1986, when the first case of BSE was officially diagnosed in cattle, and November 1989, when abattoir controls were put into effect; or so the Government thinks. Since 1989 the abattoir controls should have fully protected the public. Unfortunately, there is nothing that can be done now about exposure to infection before November 1989.

Is the incidence of CJD higher in UK than elsewhere?

No. The disease, first diagnosed in the 1920s, occurs with roughly the same frequency everywhere. However, the incubation period for the disease is anything from 10 to 20 years. So if BSE has passed to a significant number of humans, it could take many years for this to show up as a big increase in cases of CJD.

Does CJD affect any particular occupation?

The evidence is inconclusive despite a statistically unusual cluster of cases among dairy farmers during the past four years. But dairy farmers also show an unusual tendency to go down with the disease in countries where there is no BSE.

Knackers and offal merchants feed the hysteria

A test for anyone tempted by a career in politics: read aloud without hesitation, in a manner which virtually the whole Cabinet on the front bench beside you could admire, "Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee." Now say "bring together leading experts in neurology, epidemiology and microbiology to provide scientifically based advice on the implications of different forms of spongiform encephalopathy".

Then things fell apart. Dorrell urged MPs to steer clear of party politics. MPs steered straight into them.

You or I would have feared the worst: that Labour might seize with hysteria on this issue as a stick with which to beat the Government, adding to public alarm; and that Tory backbenchers would leap mindlessly to the defence of "the industry" — their farming pals, as well as slaughter-

ers, bonemeal crushers and other adored members of the community.

We might fear Labour would then accuse the Tories of being "the farmer's friend" and the Tories accuse Labour of hating agriculture.

All our fears would have been justified. Tory backbenchers behaved yesterday as though the greater part of the electorate were composed of knackers' and offal-merchants, plus a heavy contingent of butchers in all the marginal seats. Labour be-

haved as though Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease were sweeping the nation like the Black Death while government ministers peddled infected ham-burgers on every corner.

Harriet Harman, Dorrell's Shadow, spoke first. She operates in only one mode maximum reproach. "Public confidence is hanging on a thread," she declared, then did her best to cut it. "Would the Government's Chief Medical Adviser feed beef to his grandchildren?"

"Or send them to grammar

schools?" cackled Dame Elaine Kellett-Bowman (C. Lancaster).

"We need to restore public confidence," cried Harman. We sure did, after her.

Butchers deplored the alarm.

I began to share the alarm.

Harold Eletson (C. Blackpool N) said Labour were dominated by "extreme vegetation anti-farming activists". I sympathised again with Labour.

It was once said of Tsar Nicholas II that the two most powerful men in Russia were the Tsar, and the last person he had spoken to. Where BSE is concerned, and in a strangely different way, my opinion too depended on the last politician I had heard.

MATTHEW PARRIS

POLITICAL SKETCH

Farmers await further fall in a market still suffering from previous scare

Beef industry fears public panic over 'mad cow' disease

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

THE multibillion-pound beef industry was bracing itself yesterday for a wave of consumer panic and plunging sales after the admission by the Government that some people probably have been infected with "mad cow" disease.

Cattle farmers are still recovering from the previous scare over BSE — bovine spongiform encephalopathy, which caused beef sales to fall by 20 per cent last December. Sales are still down by 13 per cent on this time last year.

Sir David Naish, president of the National Farmers' Union (NFU), said: "This a very serious development. Restoring consumer confidence is now paramount. I am glad the Government has acted promptly on the new scientific advice and welcome the Health Secretary's statement that beef is still safe to eat."

Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Minister, told the Commons that controls on slaughterhouses would be tightened to ensure that no potentially infected meat reached consumers. In addition, household purchases of beef, including processed products, totalled about £4 billion last year, according to the Meat and Livestock Commission. Britain also exported 242,000 tonnes of beef, worth £520 million. Nearly four fifths went to other countries in the European Union.

The industry supports 41,000 dairy farmers and

95,000 beef farmers. More than two thirds of British beef output comes from the dairy herd, either from male animals or from cows culled at the end of their milking life, a big element in the export trade. About 15,000 people work in abattoirs (other than poultry plants) and 3,000 in the animal by-products processing industry.

So far BSE has had little impact on exports, which have risen steadily in recent years.

France, which took 98,000 tonnes of British beef last year, has resisted pressure from Germany for a ban on British beef unless it is certified to come from BSE-free herds.

But the latest disclosures could reopen the debate about the risk to public health.

The best EU markets last year after France were Italy (27,200 tonnes), Ireland (24,100 tonnes) and the Netherlands (17,845 tonnes).

Germany imported only 1,500 tonnes. South Africa (27,055 tonnes) was the main destination outside the EU.

Ian Gardner, the NFU's director of policy, called for a



Professor John Pattison, a scientific adviser, with Stephen Dorrell yesterday

"rational and cool" response to the latest scientific findings. Even if some recent deaths from Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease were linked to BSE, he said, this did not mean that beef now in the shops was a risk.

"All those parts of the animals which contain the BSE agent are removed from the food chain at the slaughterhouse," he said. "I see nothing in today's announcement to indicate that any beef which people can now buy would be infected with BSE."

Ray Darlington, executive officer of the National Federation of Meat and Food Traders, which represents butchers

and small slaughterhouses, said: "We are still examining the ministers' statements. Obviously we are very concerned about the implications for our businesses."

What makes BSE potentially so disastrous is that dairy herds, the biggest source of British beef, have been much more affected than beef herds. More than half of dairy herds have had at least one case of BSE, compared with only 15 per cent of beef herds.

Since BSE was first diagnosed, 158,882 head of cattle showing symptoms of the disease have been destroyed, nearly all of them dairy cows, at a cost of £130 million in compensation payments for farmers. At the peak of the epidemic up to 1,000 new cases were being reported every week. The rate is now running at about 250 a week.

The disease is thought to have passed to cattle in meat and bonemeal containing the remains of sheep infected with scrapie, a condition related to BSE. The infection was recycled through the cattle herd because sheep remains were used in cattle feed. All feed of this kind was banned in July, 1988. This should have cut off the primary source of infection.

Leading article, page 21

Brussels caught in a dilemma

FROM OUR FOREIGN STAFF

VETERINARY experts from across the European Union will examine the news on British beef in Brussels tomorrow. The Commission will take advice from the veterinary committee on whether more steps are needed to protect consumers from any risks, a spokesman said.

The Commission has backed the British argument that there is no evidence of a human health hazard in the consumption of BSE-infected beef. "If the scientists say more action is needed then more action will be taken," a spokesman for Franz Fischer, the Farm Commissioner, said.

In a measure similar to one operating in Britain, sale of British beef offal has been banned in Europe since 1990 as a safeguard. The European authorities are

in a delicate position over British beef. The Commission has resisted attempts by some continental authorities to take measures against imports and it backs the British Government argument that there is no evidence of any link between Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease and BSE.

Last month it began proceedings against the German state of Rhineland-Palatinate after it banned British beef on the ground that the action was an illegal barrier to trade. On the other hand, the Commission has cited consumer fears as a factor in its decision to extend a ban on the import of American beef from cattle raised with growth hormones.

Bonn will now come under pressure to

tighten the terms of a European compromise placing some curbs on British beef. The British statement may help the German Government to wriggle out of its dilemma. "If a national level ban on imports were legally possible, the federal government would have done it long ago," Horst Seehofer, the Health Minister, said.

Only a tiny handful of cases of BSE have been discovered in French cows, but in recent months the French press and scientific community have begun focusing on the possible dangers of British beef. Last month the French National Academy of Medicine emphasised the "persistence of mad cow disease in the United Kingdom". It called for a ban on the sale in France of beef offal from cows aged less than six months originating in Britain.

New form of CJD

Continued from page 1
have succumbed to," he told peers. The Shadow Agriculture Secretary Gavin Strang described his words as "a remarkable admission".

In the second Commons statement, Douglas Hogg detailed fresh safeguards for slaughterhouses and animal feeds. The Agriculture Minister also promised existing controls would be "even more vigorously enforced". Under the new rules, carcasses from cattle aged over 30 months must be deboned in specially licensed plants supervised by the Meat Hygiene Service and the trimmings kept out of any food chain. The use of mammalian meat and bonemeal in feed for all farm animals is being banned.

The announcements were triggered by a report on ten CJD victims which said: "The most likely explanation at present is that these cases are linked to exposure to BSE before the introduction of the specified bovine offal ban in 1989." It concluded: "The risk from eating beef is now likely to be extremely small and there is no need for it to revise its advice on milk".

Dr Gavin Strang, the Shadow Agriculture Minister, said the important lesson to learn is to get into food. "It is crucial that animals which display the symptoms of BSE are not slaughtered for food," he said.

Simon Hughes, Liberal Democrat health spokesman, asked whether schools and hospitals should now stop serving beef. Glenda Jackson (Lab, Hampstead and Highgate) said that the Government's attitude over beef could threaten children. Mr Dorrell said that at present no institutions needed to withdraw beef products from their menus.

Public confidence hanging by a thread, says Labour

BY ALICE THOMSON AND JAMES LANDALE

LABOUR accused the Government yesterday of giving the public "false reassurance" in the past over the possibility of "mad cow" disease spreading to humans.

Harriet Harman, the Shadow Health Secretary, urged ministers to restore public confidence by publishing all the new scientific evidence which linked bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) to its human equivalent, Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD).

And in a clear reference to John Gummer, the former Agriculture Minister, Ms Harman added: "There must be no more photocalls from ministers feeding beefburgers to their children."

In a heated Commons debate on the two ministerial statements, Ms Harman told Stephen Dorrell, Health Secretary, that he had lost public confidence and that people would not be satisfied with "Government platitudes".

She said public confidence was "hanging by a thread" and urged the Government to give people "the full facts and honest advice" on which to base their decisions. "That relies on the Secretary of State giving full disclosure of the scientific evidence and clear advice and guidance. The time has passed for false reassurance," she said.

She added: "If we do not have full information and full disclosure of the facts, the public's response will be fear

nobody should stir up unnecessary panic."

Sir Archie Hamilton (C. Epsom and Ewell) said Labour had shown that it was "not the farmer's friend".

John Greenway (C. Ryedale) warned of the potentially "carnivorous" effect on British farmers if the new evidence

"was reported irresponsibly by the press. "There is no less reason to have confidence in British beef today or tomorrow as there was yesterday."

He urged Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Minister, not to hesitate in moving "swiftly to support the market".

Christopher Gill (C. Ludlow), who comes from a family of butchers, urged the Government to show restraint before scaring the country. "The risks of catching CJD are infinitesimal," he said.

Dr Gavin Strang, the Shadow Agriculture Minister, said the important lesson to learn is to get into food. "It is crucial that animals which display the symptoms of BSE are not slaughtered for food," he said.

Simon Hughes, Liberal Democrat health spokesman, asked whether schools and hospitals should now stop serving beef. Glenda Jackson (Lab, Hampstead and Highgate) said that the Government's attitude over beef could threaten children. Mr Dorrell said that at present no institutions needed to withdraw beef products from their menus.

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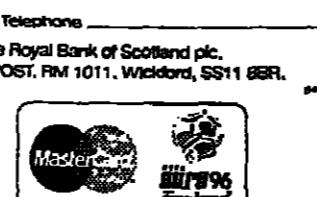
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Young victims of CJD, from left: Victoria Rimmer, Peter Hall, Jean Wake, Stephen Churchill and Michelle Bowen. Miss Rimmer fell sick in 1994 and is still in a deep coma, the others have died.

'We were told it was a disease of the old. It isn't now'

By KATE ALDERSON
AND DOMINIC KENNEDY

THE mother of a meat pie maker who died of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease yesterday brandished a letter from Downing Street rejecting any link with BSE.

"I should make it clear that humans do not get 'mad cow disease', although there are similar diseases which occur naturally in humans and have been known about for very many years," the Prime Minister's Private Secretary, Rachel Reynolds, wrote on his behalf last October. "I must reas-

sure you that there is no evidence to suggest that eating meat causes this sort of illness in people."

A month later Jean Wake, 38, died with her daughter Sandra, 15, and mother Norma Greenhalgh, 75, at her bedside. "I didn't believe him then and I don't believe him now," said Mrs Greenhalgh of Sunderland. "I was always convinced that Jean's illness was caused by eating infected beef and ate beefburgers as a child. His mother Frances said: "Even if they say there is just a good chance BSE can be passed on to humans they should err on the side of caution."

This was a deliberate cover up to avoid tarnishing the reputation

VICTIMS

of British beef. The decision to keep people in the dark was motivated by money."

Peter Hall, a student from Chester-le-Street, Co Durham, died four weeks ago, just before his 21st birthday. He was a vegetarian but ate beefburgers as a child. His mother Frances said: "Even if they say there is just a good chance BSE can be passed on to humans they should err on the side of caution."

Michelle Bowen died aged 29 last November three weeks after her

son Tony was born by Caesarean section. She had worked in a butcher's as a teenager.

Her husband Anthony, of Harpurhey, Manchester, said he feared his baby son might also die. "I've spoken to several experts. One in particular believes I have a case against the Government for negligence as they have never really thrown their full weight behind a comprehensive research campaign."

Stephen Churchill, 19, a student from Devizes, Wiltshire, died in May last year 12 months after becoming depressed and dizzy. His

mother Dot told Radio 4's *The World at One*: "We would like to have an independent inquiry. The disease itself is changing. It is attacking younger people. We were told it was a disease of the 50 to 70-year-olds and it isn't any more."

Ann Richardson of Liverpool died aged 41 two months ago. Her husband Ronny is also considering legal action.

Freda Neild, 65, died eight years ago. Her daughter Sandra Galloway, 52, a Doncaster nurse who founded the CJD Support Network, said: "We need a public inquiry into what is causing these

deaths and if CJD is not caused by eating beef then we need to know what on earth does cause it."

The grave of one young CJD victim was dug to a depth of nine feet last year instead of the usual six. Gravediggers were issued with protective clothes and surgical gloves at the funeral of Maurice Callaghan, 30, of Belfast.

Victoria Rimmer, 18, a kennel worker, of Connah's Quay, Clwyd, was the first teenager diagnosed with CJD. She fell sick in 1994 aged 16 and is still in a deep coma. Her relatives have always blamed hamburgers.

Risk from eating beef 'no longer zero'

Subtle differences led scientists to link BSE with humans

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

TEN patients below the age of 42 provided the smoking gun that pointed to a link between mad cow disease and its human equivalent, Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease. Subtle differences in symptoms and in brain pathology enabled the CJD Surveillance Unit at Western General Hospital in Edinburgh to distinguish between these patients and those suffering the normal form of CJD. By doing so, they identified what Stephen Dorrell, the Health Minister, yesterday called "a previously unrecognised and consistent disease pattern".

The patients had an average age of onset of 27, compared with over 63 for the normal form of CJD. The early symptoms of the new form include anxiety and depression, while those of classical CJD in many ways resemble Alzheimer's disease, starting with forgetfulness and uncharacteristic behaviour. In addition, the new form shows signs of developing more slowly. In typical CJD, death follows within

six months of onset, but in the new form sufferers survive for 13 months.

The final distinction is one of pathology. CJD can be diagnosed with complete confidence only after death, by the spongy appearance of the brain tissues under the microscope and the presence of the so-called prion protein in the brain. Dr Robert Will of the CJD unit said that the new strain was charac-

terised by larger than normal quantities of this protein. "This was very consistent and very striking," he said.

The assumption is that the cases of CJD in the ten younger patients derived from BSE-contaminated meat eaten between the first appearance of BSE in 1985/86 and the banning in 1989 of the sale of brain and spinal cord. While the advisory committee believes that the risk

from eating beef today is extremely small, nobody can any longer claim that it is zero.

However, the major risk arose between 1986 and 1989, when all beef-eaters may have been exposed to BSE-infected meat. The numbers of infected cattle in those years was fortunately small, totalling no more than about 10,000, as the epidemic slowly gained in strength. (In the peak year after the ban, 36,000 cows were affected.)

So the risk depends on how much of the beef consumed in those years was infected, and how easily the infection can be passed on to man. Neither question can yet be answered. Nor is it possible to say for how long the risk will last for those people who did eat infected meat.

The only comparable situation for which data is available is Kuru, a disease suffered by the Fore highlanders of Papua New Guinea, who until 1960 practised a ritual of cannibalism. This disease,

which may originally have arisen spontaneously, was spread from generation to generation by eating the remains of close relatives.

The average survival for Kuru sufferers was 16 months, considerably longer than for the usual form of CJD but closely similar to the new one. The incubation period for Kuru was in some cases as short as four years, and in others as long as several decades. Although cannibalism stopped in 1960, and nobody is thought to have been infected by the disease after that, people in Papua New Guinea still die of it.

If the new form of CJD follows this pattern, it will be almost the middle of next century before we

can be sure that no more new cases will emerge.

Guessing how many cases there will be is equally impossible. If we are lucky, the "species barrier" will have been high enough for only a few people a year to be infected. If we are not, and the incubation period is long, these first ten deaths may represent the foothills of a rising curve of cases that will not peak for decades.

Food retailers were last night planning a public relations offensive to try to reassure shoppers that British beef products are safe for human consumption. High Street retailers said they would be briefing their staff to cope with an anticipated surge in questions from

customers. They hope an information campaign will avert a catastrophic fall in sales.

In 1985, the year before BSE was identified in cattle, 1.13 million tonnes of beef were consumed in Britain. Last year the figure was 880,000, a drop of 19 per cent.

Manufacturers pledged yesterday to make it crystal clear that beef would be clearly identified as an ingredient in product packaging. Beef can be contained in products as diverse as jelly, wine sauce and chicken broth.

A spokesman for the Meat and Livestock Federation said: "We will have to do a lot of explaining to avoid any hysteria. This will not be good."

beef extracts and even black pudding, sausages and beef pies. For the past two or three years I have extended this advice by suggesting that patients should avoid beef liver or kidneys or sweetbreads. Until today's report I have continued to enjoy roast beef although I have been careful to leave any lymphatic glands that might be lurking among the meat.

Although it seems likely that only a few people will be affected, I shall in future avoid all beef, whether roasted or minced, until scientists can be truly reassuring. Worldwide reassurance must include a ministerial resolve not to use that most non-committal phrase "there is no evidence that...". Until I can tell my patients that "there is evidence that BSE cannot be transmitted to people" I will suggest they choose other joints for their Sunday lunch.



John Gummer and daughter Cordelia enjoying beefburgers

Choose something else for Sunday lunch

MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttaford

Guinea until cannibalism was eradicated 40 years ago.

We now know that BSE crosses the species barrier and now know, contrary to earlier reassurance given to us by experts, that it can be acquired by carnivores.

If cats can catch feline spongiform encephalopathy from eating infected beef products, are we wise to suggest that humans won't?

The incubation period in these diseases is up to 15 years. If

children can be infected by a contaminated hamburger, those who caught it during the early 1980s when the number of cattle involved was small would only now start to become victims.

Previously when asked by patients whether they should eat beef, I have always suggested that they should do so only when it was obvious from which part of the animal it had been taken. I recommended against beef rissoles, cottage pie, beefburgers,

Ten years on, beef is back under suspicion

By ANDREW PIERCE

THE ten-year debate over BSE has been marked by confusion, contradiction, warnings against hysteria from meat producers and unwavering reassurance from the Government. November 1986: BSE identified in cattle by Central Veterinary Laboratory. The condition was thought to have been transferred through consumption of sheep offal infected by scrapie. April 1988: working party established under Professor Sir Richard Southwood, Pro Vice-Chancellor of Oxford University, to assess significance of BSE epidemic.

June 1988: working group's first report recommended that infected animals and their milk be destroyed, BSE be made a notifiable disease, and a research committee be set up to discover extent of threat to animals and humans.

July 1988: Government banned feed products made from ground cattle and sheep remains.

August 1988: ministers ordered slaughter of all BSE-infected livestock.

November 1988: disease made notifiable.

February 1989: publication of Southwood report which said it was "most unlikely that BSE will have implications for human health". The EU banned export of cattle born before July 1988 and offspring of suspect animals.

May 1990: John Gummer, the Agriculture Minister, held press call at which his daughter, aged four, was photographed eating a beefburger. CJD surveillance unit set up in Edinburgh. First announcement of a cat with BSE.

May 1990: the Chief Medical Officer, Sir Donald Acheson, said beef was "absolutely safe to eat". Margaret Thatcher echoed him, saying: "You have got the best scientists working on it."

June 1990: 23 non-EU countries, including Saudi Arabia, banned British beef.

March 1993: Mark Duncane Templeman, a dairy farmer whose livestock had suffered from BSE, died of CJD.

August 1995: death of Stephen Churchill, 19, youngest British BSE victim disclosed.

September 1995: a third dairy farmer confirmed as latest CJD fatality. Councils, including Humberside, banned meat from school canteens.

October 1995: Dr Kenneth Calman, Chief Medical Officer, said: "There is no scientific evidence of a link between meat-eating and CJD."

November 1995: Professor Sir Bernard Tomlinson, an expert on brain disease, said he would not eat beefburgers, beef liver or meat pies and recommended a ban on all meat offal.

December 1995: the professor accused by Angela Browning, junior Agriculture Minister, of not basing his conclusions on scientific evidence. The Advisory Body on Catering for Social Services urged a ban on beef products. Graham Lane, chairman of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities, said:

"People are not prepared to accept government assurances at face value." Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Minister, said he and his family still ate beef despite growing number of schools banning it.

John Major told Commons:

"There is currently no scientific evidence that BSE can be transmitted to humans or that eating beef causes it in humans. I am also advised that beef is a safe and wholesome product." Government published advertisements in newspapers saying: "BSE is an animal disease which affects only cattle."

HEAR CONSERVATIVE BRITAIN PRAISED BY THE OPPOSITION.

TONIGHT 9.00PM BBC 1, 10.00PM ITV.

British man murdered in China's Wild West

BY JAMES PRINGLE IN PEKING AND BILL FROST

A BRITISH businessman has been murdered in Shenzhen, the increasingly lawless and violent Chinese city that is a well-liked and well-respected high achiever.

Kyu Sung, a workmate who travelled with Mr Swindells to China earlier this month, said he had been out sightseeing when his friend was murdered last Sunday. "As I returned to the hotel, I intended to call David, who was on another floor, to invite him to join me for dinner. But then I saw that the lobby was swarming with police and was shocked when they told me that he had been stabbed to death."

The murder comes just days after the British Embassy in Peking issued a warning to travellers of the increased dangers they face in China. "Muggings in main cities, sexual harassment and crime on trains are increasing. Foreigners are regular targets," a spokesman said.

"This really hasn't sunk in yet. I am still numb by what has happened but I had this feeling that there might be a time when I would not see him again; that is the sort of dangerous world we live in," she said.

Mr Swindells, 59, was working in Shenzhen as a business consultant for Corning Incorporated, a New York-based computer company. Col-

leagues described him yesterday as a well-liked and well-respected high achiever.

Mr Swindells, a workmate who travelled with Mr Swindells to China earlier this month, said he had been out sightseeing when his friend was murdered last Sunday. "As I returned to the hotel, I intended to call David, who was on another floor, to invite him to join me for dinner. But then I saw that the lobby was swarming with police and was shocked when they told me that he had been stabbed to death."

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Jamie Houghton, chairman of Corning Incorporated, last night paid tribute to Mr Swindells, who lived at Frilford, near Abingdon, Oxfordshire. "He was very highly regarded within the company. Obviously all David's colleagues are very saddened by this most unfor-



tunate incident," he said. "This is particularly difficult for me because I worked with David for many years. Our prayers are with his widow and three children."

Mrs Swindells described her husband as "an exceptional man". She added: "David was a lovely and highly intelligent man. He had great integrity, a wonderfully infectious sense of humour and was very erudite and extremely well-read."

Mr Swindells, a politics graduate from New College, Oxford, retired as a full-time employee of Corning Incorporated two years ago. He had been with the company 24 years, rising to vice-president before becoming a freelance consultant.

Last night the business-

man's family was waiting for news of when his body might be returned to Britain. A Foreign Office spokesman said that Chinese police might want a post-mortem examination before authorising the release of the body.

Shenzhen, a poor rural village only two decades ago, has become a "Wild West" boom town after being chosen by the Chinese Government as a testbed for economic reform and a flirtation with capitalism.

Exposure to new freedom has, however, brought near anarchy to the city. Guests fled from one state-run hotel after witnessing rival Triad gangs fighting with knives and meat cleavers in the lobby.

Foreign businessmen are preyed on by prostitutes and muggers who seem to operate with impunity in hotels and sex visiting businesses and women as a ready source of foreign currency.

Anxious at the rising tide of crime in the city, the authorities have recently sought to make an example of those responsible. However, not even posters showing the execution of criminals by firing squad has halted the growth of lawlessness.

City bank turns to Yorkshire for touch of Zen

BY JOE JOSEPH

A FORMER foundry worker from Yorkshire who has turned himself into an unlikely tub-thumper for Zen Buddhism and Taoist philosophy has convinced City financiers that they, too, can benefit from his motivation.

Standard Chartered, the British-based bank with operations in Asia and Africa has just hired Sid Joynson of Castleford, West Yorkshire to instil team-minded Japanese spirit of *kaizen*, or continuous improvement, into 90 backroom clerical staff in its London office.

Mr Joynson, 54, whose clients include Hotpoint, Barclaycard, Powergen and British Aerospace, became a convert to Japanese factory methods after visiting Tokyo eight years ago. "I teach people how the Japanese *really* run their factories," he said yesterday while running a two-day, £2,400 workshop for a paintbrush firm in Belfast.

"It's a brutal and direct approach to life, but it's also supportive and caring. I get people wound up and enthusiastic, but also give them very specific tools and techniques."

The novelty is not just that the one-man-band Mr Joynson is a far cry from accountants and management consultants, but that his notion of teamwork is traditionally alien to the City, where a Darwinian struggle in the dealing room secures the deal and the sleekest company cars.

Standard Chartered said it was beginning to use "team-builders" throughout its organisation. Chris Sykes, the bank's operations manager, believes Mr Joynson might be the man "to improve our operations by moving to a greater degree of team spirit and empowerment". He also says that Mr Joynson "is not for the faint-hearted", being a man who likes referring to



SID JOYNSON IS A FAR CRY FROM THE USUAL CONSULTANT.

RESPECT FOR EVERY WORKER IS THE KEY, HE SAYS

the CBI as "Complete Bloody Idiots" and winks at companies like "Mickey Mouse". He urges managers to smile more, praise more and perform acts of random kindness.

"Respect, treating people as experts, whether they are the toilet cleaner or the managing director, that's the key. All I do for a living is go into an organisation and tap into the wisdom that's already there. A good general puts his troops first, a bad general puts himself first, and loses the battle."

Mr Joynson says that too many managers show their staff not TLC (tender loving care) but TDC — thinly disguised contempt. He argues that bosses and management consultants who think they can improve profits by shedding staff not only ruin their companies but have been responsible for killing off British manufacturing industry.

"Everywhere I go I've got heroes waiting for me. But I'm the first person who's told them they're heroes."

Word of mouth has filled Mr Joynson's diary and his wallet: "I make a fortune. I can do free workshops with Dr Barnardo's because I'm rich."

LEADING ARTICLE, PAGE 21

Swindling bigamist Casanova jailed for 4½ years

AN AGEING and overweight Casanova who swindled the women he seduced was jailed for 4½ years yesterday.

Nicholas Leonardo, 56, a multimillionaire bigamist, was still married to his fourth wife, was having an affair with his secretary, and was engaged to a deputy bank manager he had led into a life of crime when he was arrested in 1994.

The court was told that the offences Leonardo had admitted involved £2 million. However, police are convinced he dishonestly obtained about £3.5 million in Britain alone. The court was told it was not possible to prove his true identity.

Knightsbridge Crown Court in central London was told how Leonardo, who once ran off with a £250,000 jewellery collection after telling a Swiss dealer he was engaged to Christina Onassis, carefully selected his victims. Often armed with information uncovered by private investigators he had hired, the accomplished linguist would charm them with proclamations of love and tales of his wealth. One of his victims, Maria Seymour, a Mexican-born divorcee, handed over her savings after he told her that he had served in the Cabinet of King Constantine of Greece.

Patricia Flynn, the woman bank official, was persuaded into defrauding the Midland Bank of £133,000. When her employers became suspicious, Leonardo effectively imprisoned Miss Flynn, taking her to Spain, America and Greece to prevent her talking. She was eventually arrested and jailed for three years.

The court was told that Leonardo would invent excuses when his victims questioned his behaviour. He once claimed that he had been blown up by an IRA bomb.

Greek-born Leonardo also defrauded financial institutions — in one case obtaining a mortgage advance of £790,000.

Passing sentence, Judge Hordern told Leonardo, who admitted it sample counts of theft and deception between 1987 and 1993, that his betrayal of Mrs Seymour's trust was "extremely serious", and the way he had swindled his secretary, Jayshree Kaval, showed "extreme meanness". He said she should receive £6,000 compensation, while Mrs Seymour should receive the remainder of the £50,000 confiscation order.

The judge added: "It is quite clear that your presence in this country is a detriment to it and I recommend you should be deported after you have served your sentence."

Photographer threatened former model

A PHOTOGRAPHER who pestered a former Page Three model with menacing phone calls when she refused to continue posing for him was jailed for three months yesterday.

Kenneth Bartels, 56, who appeared on the cover of *Jilly Cooper's* bestseller *Riders*, with more than 800 phone calls and messages on her answering machine, telling her he would wreck her life.

Magistrates at Brighton were told that Bartels, 56, of Crawley, West Sussex, became obsessed with Mrs Stoner after she stopped working for him. He admitted making menacing phone calls.

A police spokesman said of the accident, which happened on Tuesday: "It was really bad luck. He could have broken an arm or a leg, but unfortunately his head took the full impact." In his 1992 biography of Pears,

Headington, 65, who lived in Newton Abbot, Devon, charted the singer's love affair with Benjamin Britten.

The biography, however, met with mixed reviews. Max Lopert, writing in the *Financial Times*, said the book was "a dogged disappointment". He concluded that Headington, who knew Pears and Britten well, had sought to avoid controversy.

No mean composer himself, Headington's works included a ballet, performed in Paris and Edinburgh in 1957, choral music, two string quartets, two piano sonatas, a piano quartet, a cello

sonata and three song cycles. He taught music in schools until 1964, when he joined the BBC as a senior assistant in music presentation. The following year he was appointed tutor in music at the Oxford University Delegacy for Extramural Studies.

He appeared frequently on television and radio music programmes and published a *History of Western Music* in 1974.

His later musical compositions drew much praise. They were described by one critic as "bold in construction, free and more positive in declaring themselves emotionally".

Mutinous talk stirs tempers at Bligh auction

BY TIM JONES

MORE than 200 years after the infamous mutiny, the descendants of Captain William Bligh, master of the ill-fated *HMS Bounty*, and Fletcher Christian are still at war.

Yesterday, as a treasure trove of memorabilia charting the voyage and its consequences fetched £130,000 at auction, they remained divided over whether the great navigator was a tyrant or a malignant national hero.

Maurice Bligh was in no doubt that his great, great, great-grandfather had been slighted through the decades and unfairly turned into an historical ogre. Mr Bligh, an author, has spent more than 25 years trying to clear the captain's name and hopes soon to publish a book which he says will accurately depict him in a kindly light.

He said: "He has been portrayed in a totally unfair way and is unrecognisable from the man he really was. Instead of being regarded as a

tyrant, he should be feted as a national hero." Mr Bligh, 52, was scathing about Stephen Walters, whose collection was being sold at the auction at Bonhams. He said: "I have a few bones to pick with him. He was advised to the 1984 film *The Bounty* which starred Anthony Hopkins and was based on the worst anti-Bligh novel ever written."

Mr Walters, an historical adviser, paid tribute to Bligh's skills as a navigator and husbander of men. "I don't think he was as bad as is sometimes painted but he did not suffer fools gladly and railed against people who did not follow his commands."

Ewan Christian, a distant cousin of Fletcher Christian,

who led the mutiny and sailed the *Bounty* to Pitcairn Island, refused to accept that Captain Bligh was not a harsh and cruel man. He said: "There were two mutinies against him, one on sea, the other on land so clearly there was something wrong with the man. I do not see him as a hero and back Fletcher in his actions."

Although the three men attended the auction in Knightsbridge, after the collection was sold they stood well apart and did not speak to one another.

The most valuable work to be auctioned, *An Account of the Mutinous Seizure of the Bounty*, derived from Bligh's own account of the mutiny, fetched £10,925. An album relating to Peter Heywood, at 15, the youngest mutineer, made £7,475.

Skiing crash kills Pears biographer

BY BILL FROST

THE biographer of Peter Pears has been killed in a skiing accident in the French Alps. Christopher Headington, who was also a composer and teacher, crashed headlong into a tree while out with a class at the resort of Les Houches in the Chamonix valley.

A police spokesman said of the accident, which happened on Tuesday: "It was really bad luck. He could have broken an arm or a leg, but unfortunately his head took the full impact."

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Bligh: defended by his relative yesterday

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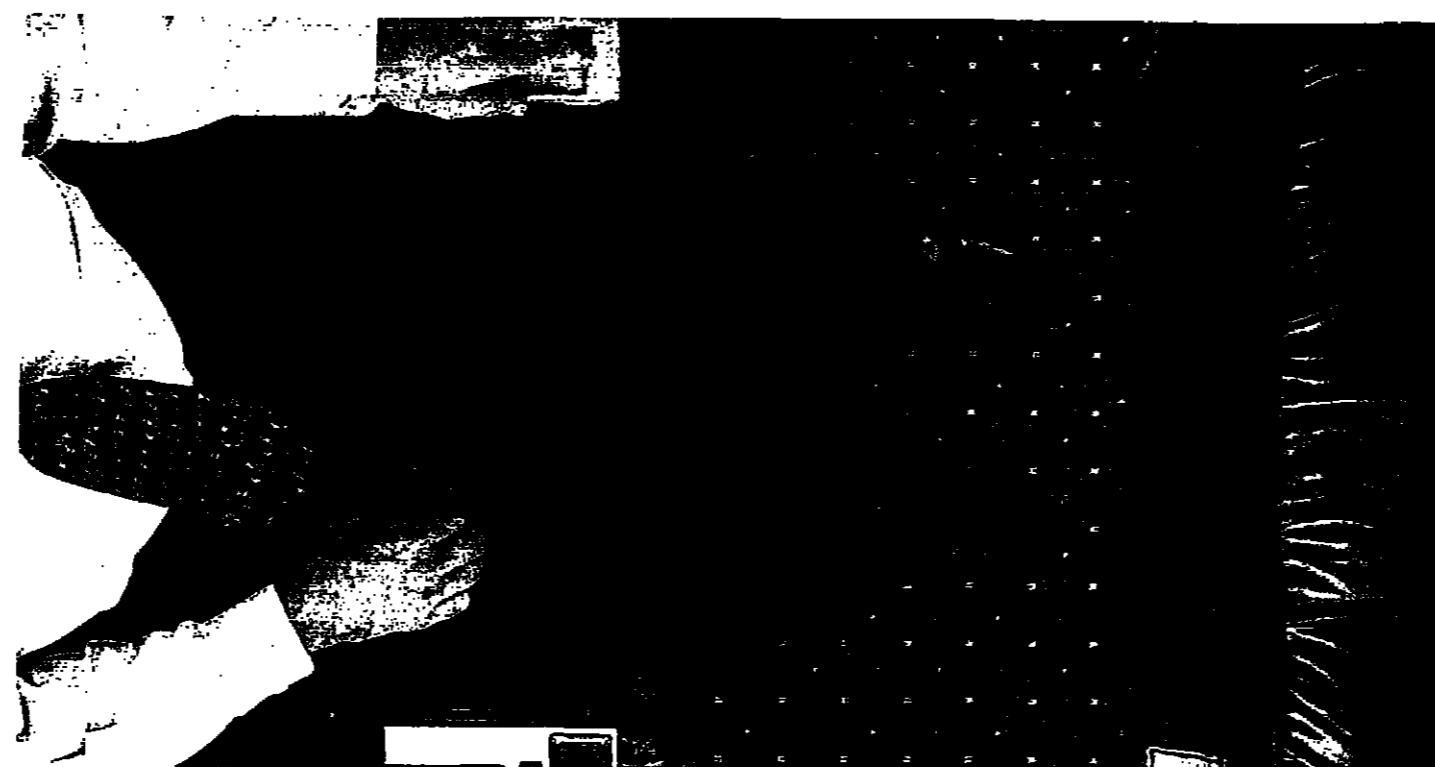
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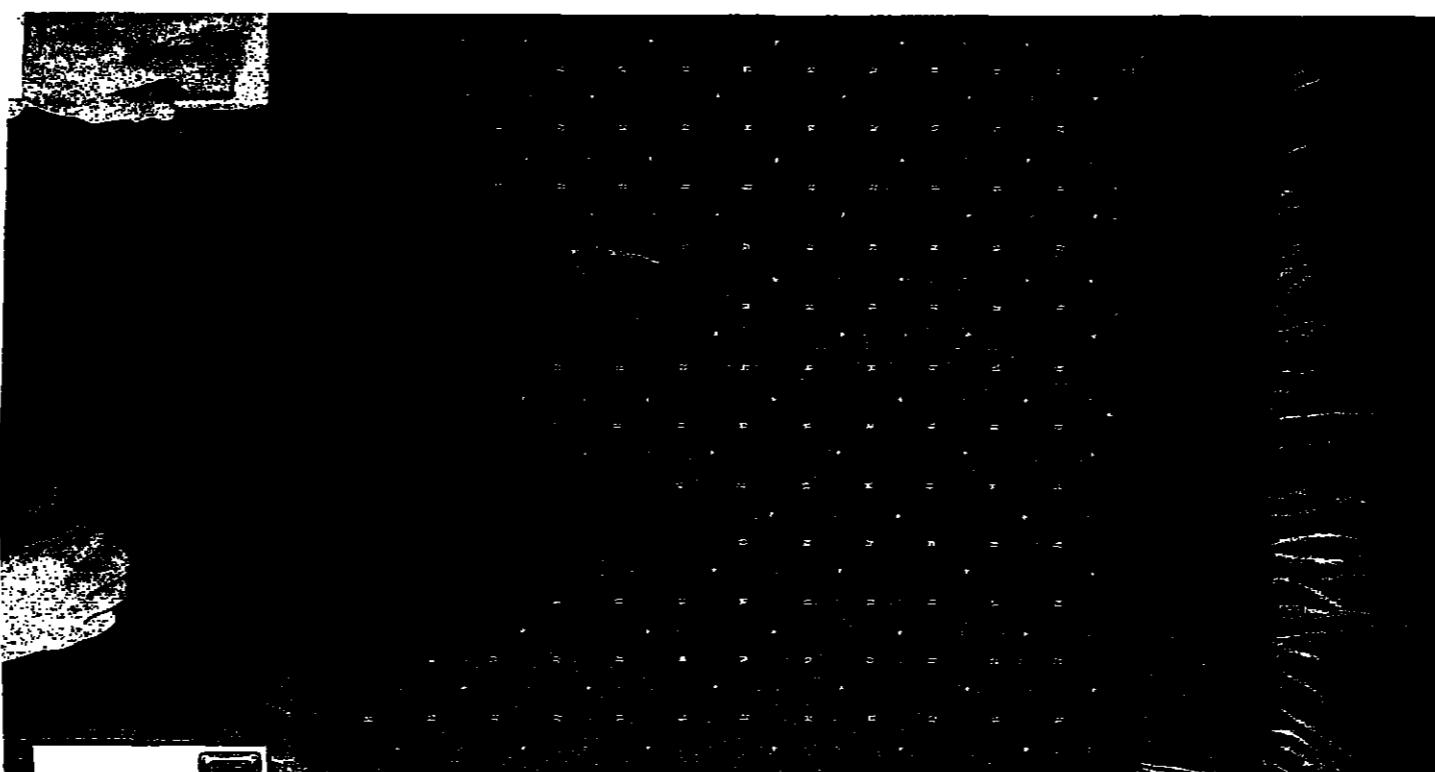
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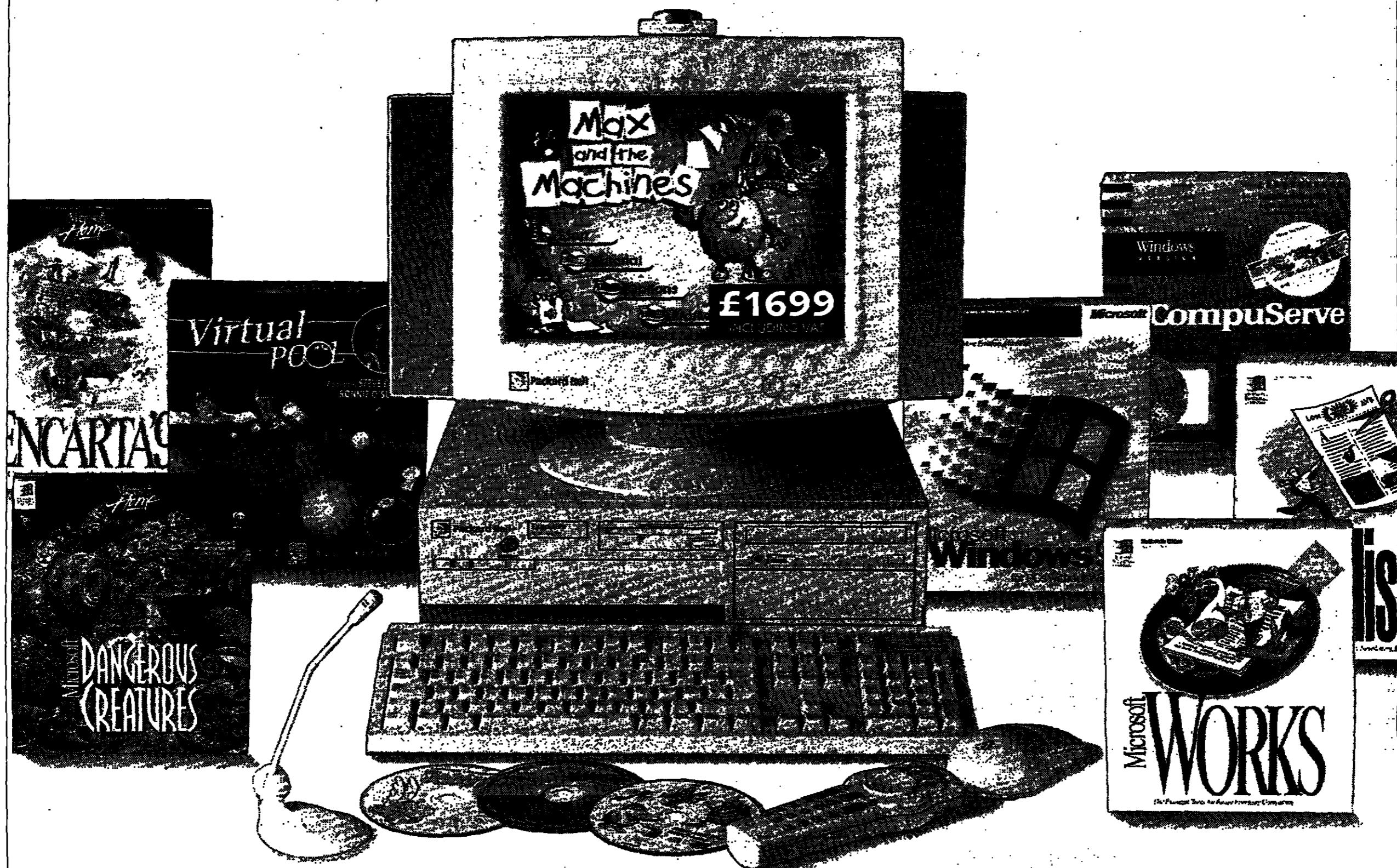
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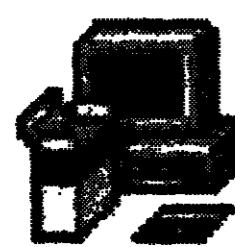
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Tory schools policy a vote-loser, says Blair

Major condemned for 'harking back to 11-plus system'

By JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TONY BLAIR rejected a return to the 11-plus system yesterday as John Major called for greater selection in thousands of schools.

The Labour leader argued that the Government's approach, effectively a return to the 11-plus, was not a vote-winner. He said that on education the Prime Minister was moving the Tories out of the centre ground and wanted to switch the clock back.

"It would be a mistake for this country to go back to the 11-plus, where you divided children into successes and failures and eighty per cent of them ended up classified as failures," Mr Blair said.

Later Mr Major heralded plans to extend selection from grant-maintained schools to church schools, local authority comprehensives and specialist schools. "In our schools and colleges I want the gates thrown open and ladders let down. Good education should be for the many, not just the few," he said.

"I never had the chance to go to university, and neither did many of my generation. I'm proud that today's young

people aren't shut out of these opportunities."

In a speech to the Social Market Foundation, Mr Major again attacked Harriet Harman's decision to send her child to a grammar school in defiance of party policy.

"Labour wouldn't give those parents, who face the appalling prospect of sending their children to failing schools run by Labour councils, the choice of schools in other areas — unless, of course, they sit in the Shadow Cabinet," he said.

"They wouldn't give bright children from disadvantaged backgrounds the chance to go to private schools — denying them the education some Labour politicians enjoyed."

Mr Major said that he planned more announcements in the next few weeks and claimed that education was the first vital step on the road to providing choice and freedom. "I want children to get above themselves. I want our youngsters to follow their own skills and ambitions, and not be confined by artificial barriers and outdated social conventions."

Mr Blair also highlighted the differences between the two parties over the Assisted Places Scheme. At last year's Tory party conference Mr Major promised to double the number of assisted places at independent schools. Labour is pledged to phasing out the scheme and using the money saved to reduce class sizes.

"It's extraordinary that the Prime Minister's only real new idea is greater subsidy through the Assisted Places Scheme for private education," Mr Blair said on BBC Radio 4's *World at One*. "The Labour party is prepared to say we are the party that will modernise the comprehensive system and give people choice and diversity within it."

Brian Mawhinney, the Conservative Party chairman, said that Mr Blair was fundamentally wrong. The Government had raised standards, widened opportunity, choice and diversity and was "now beginning to understand that successful policy is part of an election-winning strategy".

Mr Blair was asked whether

Ms Harman, the Shadow Health Secretary, might lose her seat on the Shadow Cabinet and the National Executive Committee as a result of the controversy over her grammar school decision, and whether she should simply resign now.

Mr Blair defended Ms Harman but offered no guarantee about her future. "Let's see what happens," he said. "I don't believe she should step down from either." "I believe that people who have seen Harriet perform and knock junks off Health Secretary Stephen Dorrell and government ministers on the health service are very, very supportive of her."

Mr Blair was asked whether

an internal review committee would discuss whether the Shadow Cabinet election should be brought forward from October to July, or be dropped. The committee, which Doug Hoyle, chairman of the PLP, John Prescott, deputy party leader, and Donald Dewar, the Chief Whip, will meet on Tuesday and report after Easter.

Lower tax central to Tory campaign

By NICHOLAS WOOD

JOHN MAJOR promised lower taxes, tight control of public spending, and a recovery in the housing market yesterday as he rallied his party for the battle to come with Labour.

The Prime Minister outlined his campaign plans after the Cabinet spent nearly an hour in political session preparing for a conference next week on winning a fifth term.

The theme of the Central Council meeting in Harrogate, to be attended by the party's most senior activists, will be the Government's plans to take Britain into the next century. Speakers, who will include Michael Heseltine, Kenneth Clarke, and the Mr Major, have been asked to speak over the past week.

In a speech to the Social Market Foundation at Westminster, Mr Major said that while the Tories were the party of opportunity, Labour was the party of opportunism. "I want people to get on. I want them to believe that, if they have the talent and the application, there's nothing they can't achieve."

That meant giving people the freedom and encouragement to take responsibility for their own lives. He wanted to give people more chances to choose schools for their children, to move off benefits into work, to own shares and property and to keep more of the money they earned.

"We're now back on our tax-cutting agenda giving people the opportunity to spend or save more of what they earn. We want to cut taxes further and that means controlling public spending . . ."

"Combine rising earnings, today's level of house prices, low inflation and low mortgages, and you have one of the most favourable times ever to buy a house. It provides the right conditions for a sustainable recovery."

MPs have much to learn from Nolan and Scott

By NICHOLAS WOOD

Parliament is not working well. That is not only the view of the public in polls and of many wiser MPs in private, but also of two eminent judges — Lord Nolan and Sir Richard Scott who have spent a good deal of time studying the workings of the political system. Neither exactly endeared himself to many MPs, particularly Tories. But their reflections on the failings of Parliament, in speeches over the past week, are telling.

The real issue is not sleaze or personal scandal, but ineffectiveness. Lord Nolan is a friendly, even supportive, critic, who believes that the decline in public confidence in the standards of conduct of MPs is not justified by the evidence and that we have sound institutions of which we should be proud.

Much has been made of the decision of many, mainly Tory, MPs to stand down at the next election and the Nolan proposals have often been blamed. But even in the form adopted by the Commons these only affect a narrow area of paid outside interests. Lord Nolan's impression is that the disengagement of MPs reflects a combination of the difficulties faced by the Commons in supervising the executive, the delay in examining the salaries and expenses of MPs, and the intrusion into private life which public life now entails. All are valid. The Government made a mistake in not ensuring that MPs' pay was reviewed at the same time as the new controls on outside earnings were introduced.

But the basic cause of MPs' disillusionment is their loss of influence, let alone power, particularly when compared with the American Congress. Referring to the inquiry's current work, Lord Nolan pointed to "a great increase in the number and diversity of bodies of all sizes and types which are delivering public services

in the root problem uncovered by both Nolan and Scott is the inadequate performance of the Commons and the frustrations of MPs. The primary function of the Commons at present is as a recruitment agency for the executive and its shadow. One result is to undermine the other roles of the Commons in scrutinising the executive. As William Waldegrave pointed out in a speech to the Social Market Foundation on Tuesday, "both Houses now very often mesh with pressure groups to force up [public] spending and thereby to increase the power of the executive. The old Parliamentary tradition, of suspicion of the executive and its desire to spending, is in danger of withering."

Sir Richard might smile at the source of this advice. But Parliament, as well as the Government, has much to learn from the Nolan and Scott inquiries.

PETER RIDDELL

IN PARLIAMENT

YESTERDAY in the Commons backbench debate, Labour members of parliament gave statements on beef issues. Reserve Forces Bill, second reading. City of Westminster Bill, revision motion. In the Lords: effect of government economic strategy on people's welfare; Bills (Services and Cover Charges) Bill committee.

TODAY in the Commons: questions to Northern Ireland Ministers and the Prime Minister on the results of the latest governmental conference; backbench debate on lottery beneficiaries in west Suffolk. In the Lords: Northern Ireland (Emergency Provisions) Bill, second reading. Deaf (Amendment) (Scotland) Bill, report.



Think-tank urges tax breaks on old age insurance

By NICHOLAS WOOD, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE over-50s should be given tax breaks to encourage them to insure against the costs of long-term residential or nursing care, a leading Tory think-tank proposes today.

Tax allowances of £180 a year for men and £250 for women are proposed as ministers prepare to announce their own ideas for dealing with one of the hottest items in the Government's in-tray.

Ministers are under pressure from middle-class voters alarmed to discover that John Major's objective of "wealth cascading down the generations" is jeopardised by the rising costs of long-term care.

Growing numbers of elderly people are being forced to sell their homes to meet fees for residential or nursing care because the present means tests for state help are so strict.

But those who make no provision for their old age are looked after free of charge.

One estimate suggests that the bill could reach £30 billion — four times the present level — in 35 years, placing a big new burden on the next generation of taxpayers.

The new paper, published by Politeia and widely circulated in Whitehall, supports tax breaks as the best way to encourage people to provide for their old age and to spare the taxpayer. The author, Philip Booth, a senior lecturer in actuarial science at City University,

says that the best answer is to give a special tax allowance to people in the 50-65 age bracket taking out insurance. The allowance would be pitched to cover all or part of their care, rather than accommodation costs.

The finance of long-term care for the elderly is a problem which needs tackling, he writes. "The present system is widely perceived to be unfair, and the Government is seen as confiscating the hard-earned savings and valued assets of the thrifty . . .

"Although government would continue to provide free care for those who pass the means test, the uncertainty of most people as to whether in 20 or 30 years' time, they would pass or fail such a test would ensure a high take-up of even a partial allowance."

A government Green Paper to be published around Easter will propose another formula, so-called partnership schemes under which people insure themselves for a pre-set level of fees and, if the money runs out, turn to the State for help.

Mr Booth says that formula would appear to redistribute funds towards people who would have paid their own way. It could also prove more expensive than his scheme.

The long-term view: financing care for the elderly

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League tables show councils are complacent about performance

REPORTS BY IAN MURRAY
COMMUNITY CORRESPONDENT

LOCAL authorities are remarkably complacent about the efficient delivery of basic services, according to the second annual local authority performance tables published today by the Audit Commission, the public spending watchdog.

While those councils which performed worst last year have improved, the overwhelming majority have made little progress. "A big message to emerge is that councils really need to be more ambitious and start trying to do better," Andrew Foster, the Controller of the commission, said. "It is not enough to be just average. Everyone can and should improve."

The figures, covering everything from recycling rubbish to rent collection and care of the elderly, show that neither political control nor prosperity guarantees good performance.

Most councils provide a majority of services to a high

A TALE OF TWO COUNCILS	
	Performance Indicator
Tewkesbury Gloucestershire	Percentage of three and four-year-olds with a local authority school place
68	15.1
66	Percentage of people aged over 75 helped to live at home
46	Percentage of adults going into residential care who were offered single room
79.2	Number of nights of respite care provided or funded by the authority per 1,000 adults
521.72	Net cost of collecting council tax per chargeable dwelling
53	Percentage of food premises due to be inspected which were inspected
1.5	Percentage of household waste recycled

average level, but there are still wide variations between the best and worst performances for similar services provided by comparable authorities. No clear pattern emerges. Poor councils in deprived inner cities sometimes perform better in some departments than wealthy authorities in prosperous shires.

However, the figures show clearly that identical services in comparable councils can be delivered to very different standards. The accident of which council area you happen to live in can have very

serious implications," according to Paul Veevers, who led the commission team compiling the figures.

No Conservative flagship, Labour stronghold or Liberal Democrat bridgehead can claim to be perfect. Departments in some hung councils could give object lessons in good practice to authorities with solid political leadership.

Parties will therefore have to be highly selective if they use the figures in the looming local election campaign, because good indicators in one department are often can-

celled out by bad indicators in another. Roger Freeman, the Public Services Minister, said the indicators showed that council could no longer get away with waste and inefficiency. "Many councils used not to collect this information even for their own use, let alone publish it and be judged by their residents," he said. "This is open government at the service of the consumer."

Labour said that it intended to use the indicators to identify councils in need of help. The party has already said that it will send hit-teams of council

management experts to authorities in difficulty.

Because the figures are a year old, covering the 12 months that ended last April, authorities with bad marks are already claiming that they have made big improvements. They include Lambeth, the London borough with one of the worst records, which has been under new management for the past year.

The average returns for the five least-efficient London boroughs, metropolitan councils, district and county authorities all show marked improvements. The worst group is 110 per cent better at processing council tax benefit claims within 14 days and 63 per cent better at paying student grants on time.

They have cut the average time to refer a council home from 14 weeks to ten weeks and cut the average stay of a homeless family in bed-and-breakfast accommodation from 46 weeks to 26.

The worst performers, however, are still languishing at the foot of most tables. With

rare exceptions they are councils in areas of high deprivation, which have a long way to catch up before reaching the national average.

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The worst performers, however, are still languishing at the foot of most areas. With

How to compare levels of service

COUNCIL taxpayers can judge the value for money provided by their council by using today's statistics to compare authorities across England and Wales.

The tables disclose how the amount each council spends on every resident varies hugely, with costs inevitably higher in London and urban areas. They also show that services do not necessarily improve if councils spend more. Tower Hamlets spends £1,453 per head, the highest anywhere, yet its performance lags behind South-

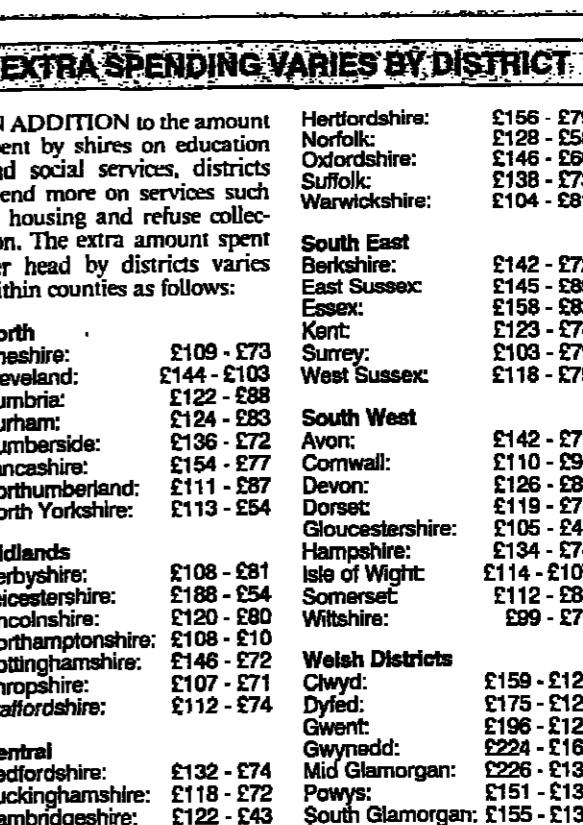
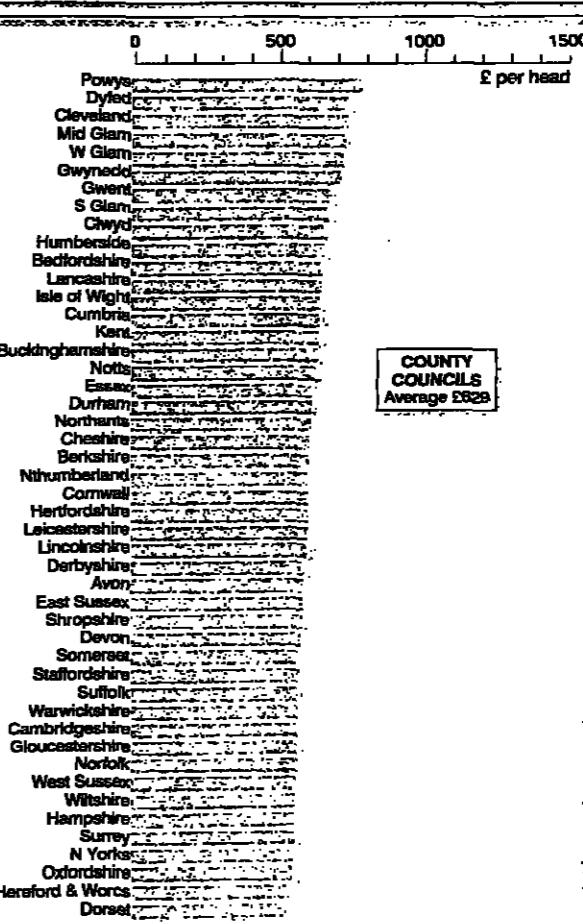
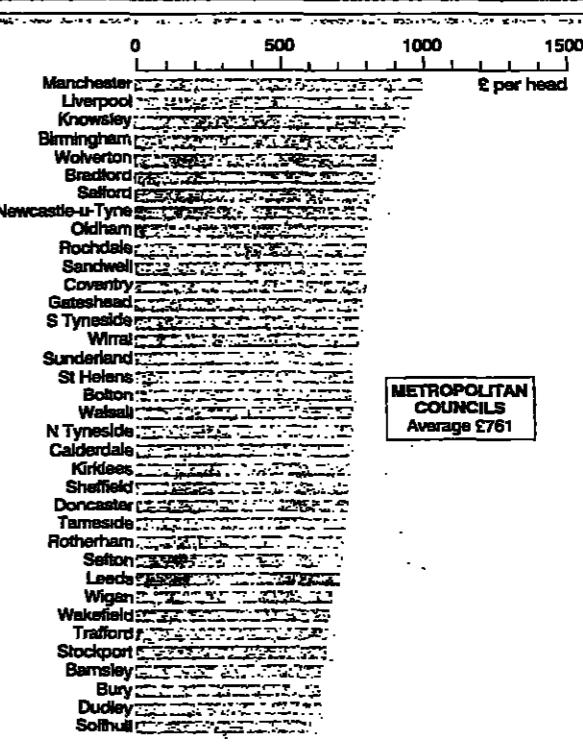
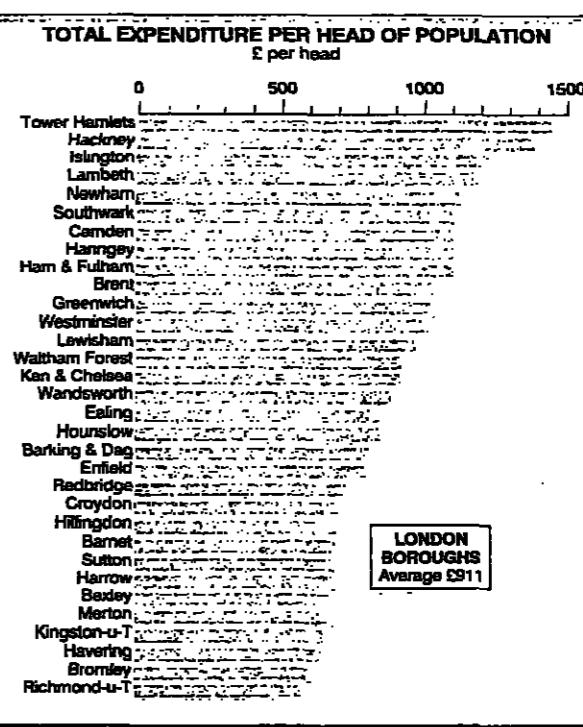
wark, which pays out £320 a year less per head.

The indicators are to be published annually and this second series makes it possible for the first time to see if councils are improving their performance.

Typical of the worst is Liverpool. It is the second-highest metropolitan council spender per head of population and is the worst at collecting council tax and rent. It has no recognisable complaints procedure or food inspection service and is one of the slowest at providing equipment to help the disabled. The city has, however, improved its performance over last year in nearly every department.

Westminster cut the amount it spends per head of population by £60 over the year, yet increased spending on education. On the downside, it has one of the poorest complaints procedures in the country.

This year's tables cover a wider range of services than last, but most councils seem to have made only marginal improvements to their performance in most areas.



Collection rate is best in the shires

REVENUE

has the highest council tax level in England but collects only 81 per cent.

The cost of collection varies widely. In the City of London — a special case because of the small number of residents — it costs £120 per dwelling, compared with £44 in Labour-run Hackney, £21.98 in Tory Westminster and £11.39 in Liberal Democrat Sutton.

Outside London the collection costs are lowest in prosperous areas. In Surrey Heath, with a 96 per cent collection rate, the cost is £8.73 per dwelling. In St Albans, where the council collects 102.4 per cent, including unpaid tax from earlier years, the cost is £17.

The commission suggests it is not necessarily cash efficient to spend a lot to ensure 100 per cent collection: there may be a case for cutting the costs and accepting a lower success rate.

Compared with these figures, the metropolitan councils have a far better record, with an average take of 93 per cent, which the commission believes should be the target for all councils. The least successful is Liverpool, which

compared with the metropolitan councils averaged 79 per cent, although neither Liverpool nor Newcastle had a clear idea of how many they inspected. The tourist centres of Bath and Blackpool managed only 40 per cent.

However, councils with long relet times sometimes have high management costs as well. Authorities which spend little on administration and have a poor performance are advised to increase management costs if this can create a higher income through letting more properties and collecting more rents.

The commission says that some councils should reconsider priorities. Those who are not carrying out an adequate number of visits are urged to "reflect on the potential risk to the public".

In London, the inspection rate was 76 per cent of what it should be, with Westminster, which controls the largest concentration of restaurants, scoring 100 per cent. Islington managed only 40 per cent.

Outside London, the inspection rate was 79 per cent of what it should be, with neither Liverpool nor Newcastle had a clear idea of how many they inspected. The tourist centres of Bath and Blackpool managed only 40 per cent.

Years of neglect mean that inner-city authorities have a difficult job in matching the performance of more prosperous areas, but there are still glaring differences in performance between authorities with similar problems.

The contrasts are greatest in inner London, where Southwark manages to relet its property in just three weeks, compared with 26 weeks in Hackney.

However, Hackney has lopped

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America warns China to drop threats and sends 'best damned navy in the world' to Taipei's defence

US agrees high-tech arms sale for Taiwan

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

AMERICA, in a further reminder to the Chinese of its military influence, agreed yesterday to sell mobile Stinger anti-aircraft missiles and other defensive weapons to Taiwan, but denied a request to supply the island with diesel submarines.

Days before the territory enters its first democratic presidential elections and as tension mounts over Chinese war games in the Taiwan Strait, the Clinton Administration said it had agreed to supply a new weapons package during talks in Washington with Taiwanese officials.

The deal, which includes a batch of Stingers and the sale of an advanced targeting and navigation system for fighter jets, is expected to gain swift approval from Republicans in Congress who are critical of continued sabre rattling by Peking.

Still committed to its "One China" policy and to avoid further inflaming the Government in Peking, the White House rejected a long-standing request from Taipei for submarines to counter the improved naval capability of the mainland forces.

Taiwan is already engaged in the purchase of 150 F16 fighter jets and the United States has also promised to increase military training at American facilities for Taiwanese officers. The Taiwanese Government will send a team of experts to the United States to analyse the Chinese threat and to discuss the possibility of an anti-missile defence system.

Officials in Washington said this week's agreement was merely part of a long-standing American commitment to bolster defences in Taiwan and should not be considered out of the ordinary. Military sales to the island have averaged about \$600 million (£392 million) in recent years, a slight reduction from the 1980s but still covering a

broad range of military hardware, including fighter jets, helicopters, frigates, tanks and missiles.

"I would regard this as a fairly modest list of weapons," said a senior official. "The current situation over there has not changed anything."

The sale is, however, clearly another deliberate warning to China to drop its muscle-flexing aimed at influencing the Taiwanese election. It came as Washington and Peking increased their rhetoric with China attacking America for its "brazen show of force" and William Perry, the US Defence Secretary, declaring the American force sailing for the strait as "the best damned navy in the world".

Mr Perry said: "While they are a great military power, the premier, the strongest military power in the Western Pacific is the United States."

Separately, the House of Representatives in Washington approved a resolution to help to defend Taiwan against Chinese aggression. The 369-14 vote ended a debate which was fiercely critical of the Clinton Administration's policy towards China.

The Administration should consider this a wake-up call," said Lee Hamilton, an Independent congressman from Indiana. "The consensus on China policy is eroding. Congress and the Administration are drifting apart. The Administration has been too timid."

□ Pakistan's arsenal: The Clinton Administration has notified Congress that it plans to go ahead with delivery of weapons to Pakistan that the Islamabad Government had paid for but never received, congressional sources said yesterday. The delivery had been held up for years because of Pakistan's nuclear programme. The weapons include navy Orion aircraft, Harpoon and AIM-9L missiles and other equipment worth £240 million. (Reuters)

CHINA ended one set of live-fire military exercises in the Strait of Taiwan yesterday, as another continued — as did the rhetoric between the American and Chinese governments.

The House of Representatives overwhelmingly approved a non-binding resolution saying that America must defend the island if it is attacked. One congressman said the vote was an "unambiguous signal to Peking". Americans warships headed by the aircraft carrier USS Independence continued to patrol just east of Taiwan, while the carrier USS Nimitz, approaching from the Gulf, is expected at the weekend. Officials in Washington rejected warnings from Peking that American vessels must not sail through the Strait.

The latest Chinese exercise is due to end Monday, two days after the presidential elections in Taiwan.

Two battle groups, led by the aircraft carriers USS Independence and USS Nimitz, have been dispatched to international waters off Taiwan. The Nimitz will arrive from the Gulf by the end of this week to become part of what may be the largest and certainly the most formidable American armada in East Asia since the end of the Vietnam War.

The carriers hold at least 55 attack aircraft. Alongside them will be three attack submarines each carrying 24 weapons, including Tomahawk and Harpoon missiles as well as the Mark-48 torpedo. There are also accompanying destroyers and the Bunker Hill, a guided missile cruiser

operating to the south of Taiwan. The US fleet is the biggest and most effective navy in the world, designed to manage what the Pentagon describes as "two nearly simultaneous major regional conflicts" at any one time.

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time, American ships are deployed for forward presence to act as a deterrent and to influence global policy, both of which apply in the case of Taiwan, and in some cases to coerce.

However, as almost anyone inside the Pentagon will admit, operational commitment often is not matched by naval power and, in recent years, the Defence Department has been forced to cope with a reduction in numbers.

For example, the navy has not been buying carrier-based jets as fast as they are wearing out and does not have enough aircraft to fill the deck spots on its operational carriers.

The current operation in Taiwan has meant that the USS George Washington, which

Chinese keep up war of nerves

FROM JAMES PRINGLE
IN PEKING

CHINA ended one set of live-fire military exercises in the Strait of Taiwan yesterday, as another continued — as did the rhetoric between the American and Chinese governments.

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BY TOM RHODES

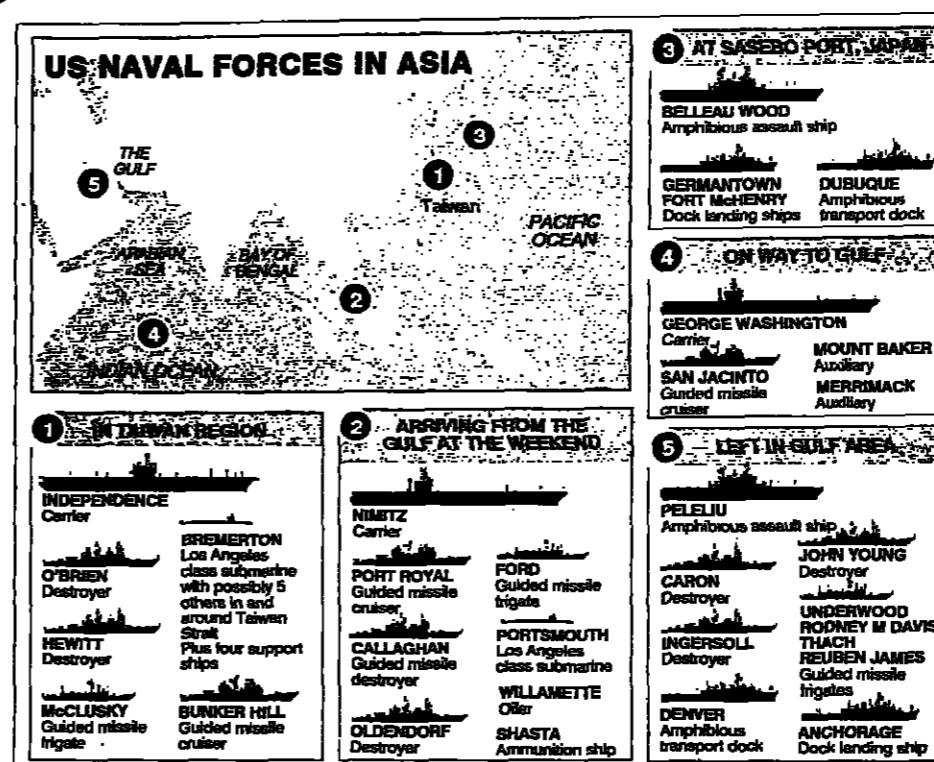
A BRIEF walk down corridor six in the Pentagon's "D" Ring at the Navy Command Centre gives proof of American might at sea.

The electronic maps, their small markers indicating vessels currently under way, are the most graphic illustration of comments this week by William Perry, the Defence Secretary, that "America has the best damn navy in the world, and no one should ever forget that".

There are 180 American ships at sea from a total fleet of 363. Of these, 102 are deployed outside American waters, including manoeuvres near the Straits of Taiwan, in the Pacific, the Atlantic, the Mediterranean and the Gulf.

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had been stationed in the Adriatic off Bosnia-Herzegovina, has been moved to the Gulf to fill the vacuum left by the departing Nimitz.

The balance between funding for force levels and readiness and modernisation stems from the Bottom-Up Review, a blueprint for the American military after the Cold War introduced by the Clinton Administration in September 1993. Compared to the Bush Administration's Base Force plan, the review soon became known as Base Force Lite.

Where the previous President had called for a reduced force structure of 12 active aircraft carrier battle groups, President Clinton demanded 11 and recommended a fleet of 346 ships, compared with 500 at the peak of the Reagan Administration.

Although the navy initially offered to reduce numbers even more drastically, defence officials in Washington soon recognised this could not anticipate for any contingency and have since argued that the fleet must remain at 346 by the end of the century.

A Pentagon official said yesterday: "The size of the fleet has been reduced after the end of the Cold War but as a result a lot of older ships have been removed. We now have a more modern fleet and our capability is very strong. We can still meet our commitments in the world."

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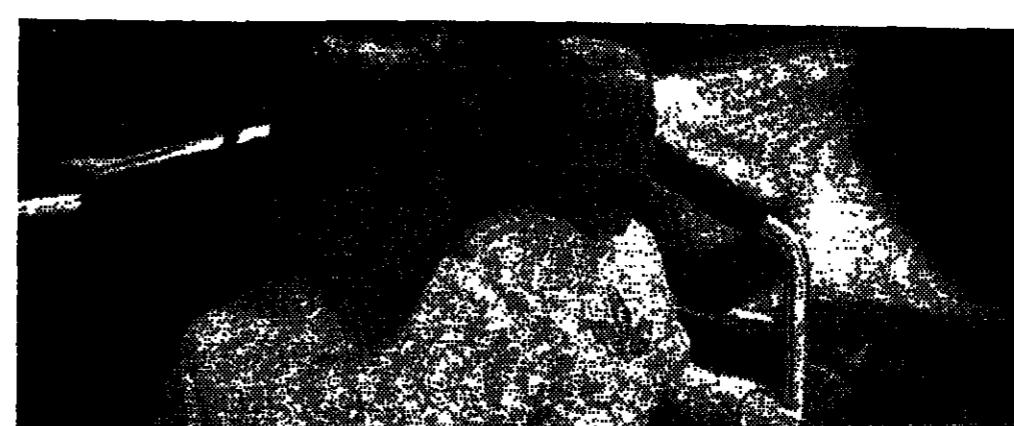
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CHANGING TIMES

Free Democrats risk collapse in regional polls

Kohl's partners fight for survival in coalition

THE chattering of helicopters and the wail of sirens signal the arrival of a rescue team. Klaus Kinkel, the German Foreign Minister, Wolfgang Gerhardt, the Free Democratic Party chief, and other luminaries dropped in on Hechingen yesterday to defend the euro, to boast about government successes, and to make a final attempt to save their shrinking party.

Hechingen is in the lush countryside of Baden-Württemberg, on the road to Switzerland. Like two other regions, Baden-Württemberg will have elections on Sunday, but much more is at stake than the fate of a few provincial barons.

If the Free Democrats collapse in all three states, the Bonn coalition of Christian Democrats and Free Democrats will be in serious trouble. In Baden-Württemberg, the prosperous southwestern province, the elections have become a first test of voter sentiment on European economic and monetary union (EMU).

Plastered throughout townships such as Hechingen, where small efficient factories in ugly plate-glass buildings have been grafted on to rural communities, there are posters declaring "Stability and jobs come first. So: delay for the other side to accuse us of being populist every time we raise an issue that is delayed; and unemployment has become the most potent of political issues."

The election posters were originally rather more snapy. The first draft said: "Stop the Christian Democrats! Stable currency instead of more unemployed: no euro for 1999." Oskar Lafontaine, the Social Democrat leader who is also pressing for delay rather than a weakening of the entry criteria for EMU, had the posters pulped. "It was too close to what the far-right Republicans are saying," Renate Schmab, a party activist, said. "This is a problem in Germany — there is no popular support for an anti-European platform, and simply to defend the mark smacks of nationalism."

Dieter Spörri, the Deputy Prime Minister of the region, Economics Minister and the mastermind of the Social Democrat campaign against the euro, said: "It is too early to say that the party has risen by at least three percentage points in the opinion polls over the past month. However, he has also been tapping other controversial issues such as immigration, so the exact impact of the campaign is difficult to calculate.

The Christian Democrats and Social Democrats have a "grand coalition" in Baden-Württemberg. Broadly speaking, this alliance has worked for the past four years, although the state is no longer regarded as the main economic powerhouse of Germany; that title has been yielded to Bavaria. Since 1992, about 250,000 jobs have been lost in the state.

In Bonn too there is growing talk of a grand coalition. The logic runs as follows: if the Free Democrats lose their footing in the weekend elections, then they will also have lost their credibility as a coalition partner for Herr Kohl and the Chancellor will be in trouble.

Baden-Württemberg is thus being watched on two counts: is the grand coalition an enduring model? Is the euro a powerful election issue that can tip the scales against the Christian Democrats?

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Roger Boyes reports from Hechingen on the fading fortunes of the Chancellor's junior government partners

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Kinkel: minister anxious to defend the euro

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Perot hint of challenge for White House sours Dole victory celebrations

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER
IN WASHINGTON

BOB DOLE emerged yesterday with a mathematical lock on the Republican presidential nomination for which he had yearned so long, but he was clearly rattled by Ross Perot's strongest hint yet that he will mount another bid for the presidency.

The Senate leader's clean sweep of all Tuesday's four Midwest primaries carried him comfortably past the 996 delegates he required

to clinch a nomination, he first sought 16 years ago. But even amid the celebrations he disclosed that his wife, Elizabeth, had telephoned to warn him of Mr Perot's latest statement: "It does concern me ... it helps Bill Clinton."

The Texas billionaire, who said he would run if asked by his fledgeling Reform Party because "I just can't sit here and see things deteriorating", won 19 million predominantly Republican votes in 1992 with his campaign to clean up Washington, balance the bud-

get and kill free trade agreements, and was widely blamed by Republicans for President Bush's defeat. A Gallup poll this week gave Mr Perot 16 per cent support, enough to wreck Mr Dole's presidential hopes if he once again split the anti-Clinton vote, and the Senate leader appealed to him during a television interview to stay out: "Ross, we are the reform party. Take a look at your checklist, take a look at what we are trying to do in the Republican Party. I think every issue you've raised we have

had or will have a vote on it ... Ross, what else do you want?"

Mr Dole's pleasure at securing the nomination barely a month after his humiliation in New Hampshire was also tempered by a close reading of Tuesday's results in the industrial Midwest which will be November's most crucial battleground. He romped home in Ohio and Illinois, but in Wisconsin and Michigan, Pat Buchanan won 34 per cent of the vote. That was his highest in any primary so far and much more

than he won in either state in his 1992 campaign. Exit polls showed nearly half the voters believed Mr Dole lacked any new ideas, would lose in November, and were unhappy with the choice of candidates. The 72-year-old senator also performed poorly among independents and those who voted for Mr Perot in 1992.

Buchanan aides used the figures to float the bizarre idea that Mr Dole should ask the populist conservative to be his running-mate because he alone could

galvanise the blue-collar "Reagan Democrats". Greg Mueller, Mr Buchanan's spokesman, said: "They ought to consider it if they want to win." He also gave a warning that Mr Buchanan might run as an independent if Mr Dole ignored his platform. "There is immense pressure on Pat, not only among some senior aides here at the campaign, but also among our grassroots activists and the grassroots leadership. They're saying, 'Don't endorse Dole, and run third party'."

Mr Dole showed no inclination to bargain with Mr Buchanan and focused exclusively on Mr Clinton. He told cheering supporters at a packed victory party in a Washington hotel that November's election would be a clear choice between "a candidate who will fight for change and a candidate who will campaign for change then fight for the status quo". He added: "The fall campaign is under way. It's 230 days to defeating Clinton."

Photograph, page 24

Drug-resistant TB 'is likely to kill tens of millions'

By EVE-ANN PRENTICE

A DRUG-RESISTANT form of tuberculosis, in which body tissue takes on the appearance of cheese, is poised to kill tens of millions of people across the world, according to the World Health Organisation.

The new plague, which will be far more widespread and devastating than Aids, is "only a whisker away", the WHO will announce in London today, because warnings about the global threat from the disease made three years ago have been largely ignored.

The strain of the disease, which is airborne and therefore far more contagious than Aids, has infected people in London and New York, as well as in the developing world. Dr Joel Almeida, medical officer for the WHO's Global Tuberculosis Programme, said yesterday: "No one is safe, even the Queen is not immune. You cannot protect yourself by wearing a condom."

Tuberculosis is expected to kill 30 million people this decade, according to the organisation. After decades in remission, the disease is epidemic in parts of Russia and is spreading worldwide, the WHO said.

Merlin, the British medical relief agency that is helping to fight an epidemic in Chechnya and Siberia, has issued a warning that the drug-resistant strains of TB are emerging because many infected people are not completing courses of antibiotics. If pa-

tients abandon their treatment half way through the six-month course, the bacilli survive and develop immunity. "If the multi-drug-resistant strain becomes predominant, we will be back in pre-antibiotic days," Dr Almeida said. "All we will be able to do is pray and send people off to sanatoriums like we did in the last century. There will be nowhere to hide except perhaps go to the moon. Eight out

of In a big outbreak, all we will be able to do is pray and send people to sanatoriums

of ten people catching the disease contract the pulmonary form, but this can affect anywhere: spine or the brain, which sends you mad. A patient's body tissue suffers cascading necrosis, which is from the Latin for turning to cheese, so healthy tissue becomes cheesy and patients begin to cough it up. Some drown in their own blood."

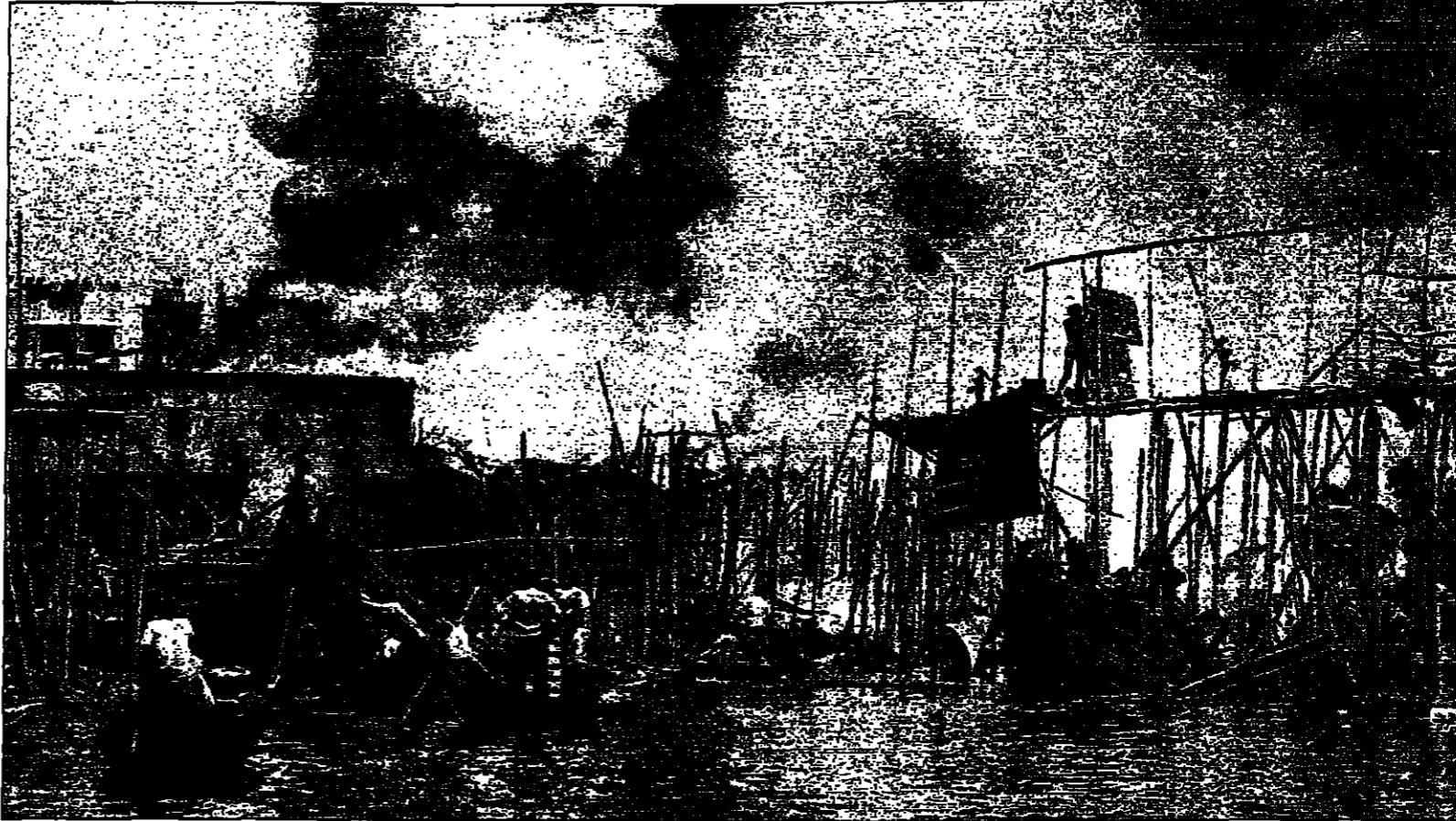
Today in a press conference drawing attention to the threat in the run-up to World TB Day on Sunday, Merlin joins the WHO in pressing governments and non-governmental

organisations to spend more money on a campaign to curb the drug-resistant strain through a treatment known as DOTS, Directly Observed Treatment. Short course, in which health workers ensure that patients complete their antibiotic courses. World TB Day will also be marked by a religious service conducted by a former TB sufferer, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, in Cape Town. President Mandela of South Africa also contracted the disease while he was a prisoner.

A third of the world's population is infected by TB which causes more than a quarter of avoidable adult deaths in the developing world, the WHO says. It predicts that 300 million people will become infected in the next ten years and, without treatment, each victim will infect ten to 15 others every year.

The WHO wants the world's governments to invest \$300 million (£326 million) a year to fight the threat. The organisation estimates that that would save the lives of three million breadwinners, or £15.6 billion a year.

People looking to invest in the emerging new global markets are only a plane ride away from disaster," Dr Almeida said. "The scale of the problem is far more vast than people seem to realise. One big outbreak, and you will have governments scrambling to do something about it, but it will be too late."



Residents of a Dhaka slum area watch from the safety of river shallows as their homes burn yesterday. The disaster, which may have been started by an overturned stove, left thousands of people homeless in the Bangladeshi capital. To add to

Thousands homeless after fire

their troubles, soldiers built bunkers and mounted heavy guns in strategic positions in the city as the country slipped further into political chaos

(Ahmed Fazl writes). In the nation's second city, Chittagong, armoured lorries left the garrison to secure a main road linking the two cities. Oppo-

sition activists have held the port virtually under siege for the past two weeks. Strikes are part of an opposition campaign, led by the Awami League, to bring down the ruling Bangladeshi Nationalist Party Government of Begum Khalida Zia.

Murder victim tapes final minutes

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

A WOMAN who was abducted at gunpoint in the United States managed to switch on a tape recorder in her handbag and record the last minutes of her life.

Her actions provided police with a record of the gunman's voice and personal details and her desperate attempts to talk

him out of his folly. She failed, however, and was suffocated.

The 24-minute tape, part of which has been released by New Jersey police, shows that in her final moments Kathleen Weinstein thought she had succeeded in persuading the gunman to leave her unharmed.

Showing remarkable calm, she told the youth he was making a mistake and promised not to tell anyone about him if he let her go. She also gleaned his first name, age, and details of his past.

In excerpts released by the police, a steady-voiced Mrs Weinstein, 45, told her assailant: "Don't you understand, though, what kind of trouble you are going to get in? Don't you think they're going to find you? You haven't done anything yet. All you have to do is let me go and take my car."

Mrs Weinstein, a teacher, was abducted in the car park of a shopping mall where she had stopped to buy a sandwich.

Police have arrested a 17-year-old, named by a newspaper as Michael LaSane. Last Thursday's attack took place on the day before his 17th birthday, when he allegedly went to look for a car for his birthday present. Investigators believe he took a fancy to Mrs Weinstein's red 1995 Toyota Camry.

At one point on the tape, Mrs Weinstein appeared to crack under the strain. She regained her composure to press on her abductor the consequences of his actions.

"Do you really want that on your head? Hijacking a car and leaving somebody?" She also told him about her hus-

Video ruling for Clinton

Washington: A judge yesterday spared President Clinton the embarrassment of a personal appearance at the trial of his former Arkansas business partners, ruling that it could give evidence on videotape (Martin Fletcher writes).

However, Judge George Howard refused the President's request for advance notice of the questions.

Mr Clinton's testimony was demanded by Jim and Susan McDougal, the Clintons' former partners in the White-water Development Corporation, who have been charged with fraud and conspiracy.

They want the President to rebut a claim by David Hale that as Arkansas Governor Mr Clinton put pressure on him to make an improper \$300,000 (£196,000) loan to Mrs McDougal from a small business programme.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

A STAR IS BORN

At long last the Hubble Space Telescope is living up to expectations, sending back information that is rewriting the history of the universe and spectacular pictures such as this of the formation of stars in the Eagle nebula seven millennia ago.

In the Magazine on Sunday, Peter Millar charts the astonishing work done by astronauts and astronomers which put the Hubble project back on course

A GARDENING VIDEO FOR JUST £1.98

Learn from the experts how to create a garden from scratch, or adapt an existing one, in a 60-minute video from the Royal Horticultural Society. Making a Small Garden. It usually costs £14.99 but is available to readers of the Sunday Times for just £1.98. See the Style section

THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS

Russians blunder in space

By NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

AMERICAN scientists have worked out why a satellite they launched with Russia failed after only one day in orbit: the Russians had wired up the solar panels the wrong way round.

Instead of charging the batteries on the £4.5 million satellite, the panels discharged them. "It's always the simple stuff that kills you," said Dr James Cantrell, in charge of the mission at Utah State University.

The satellite, called Skipper, was designed to stay in orbit for 30 days to test its ability to detect and identify incoming missiles, as part of a space defence system. The Pentagon paid for it.

Dr Cantrell declined to blame the Russians. "It's not that they're stupid," he said, admitting that his own scientists failed to detect it.

The debate is not the only problem clouding US-Russian relations in space. After two link-ups between an American shuttle and the Russian space station Mir, and with a third planned this week, they are arguing over who will command the space station once it is built.

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Mandela financial offer spurned as Winnie fights on

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN JOHANNESBURG

WINNIE MANDELA said yesterday that she would challenge a court order granting President Mandela a divorce, just hours after he offered her an out-of-court financial settlement.

The South African leader's initiative followed a rejection by the Supreme Court of Mrs Mandela's claim for half his estate, estimated by one newspaper at about £6.6 million. She failed to appear in court or send a lawyer.

On Tuesday a judge upheld Mr Mandela's claim that the marriage had irretrievably broken down, and ordered Mrs Mandela to pay legal costs. Her request for an adjournment after dismissing her lawyers was rejected by the court as a ploy.

In a statement issued through his lawyers yesterday, Mr Mandela said: "I'm glad that the case is over and regret that my ex-wife could not bring herself to negotiate an amicable settlement. It would have saved us both and our children much pain."

However, Mrs Mandela later indicated that there may be more pain to come. In her first public comment since the divorce was granted, she said she was seeking legal advice on whether she could take the matter to the highest court in South Africa, the Constitution-

al Court. "Once it became apparent that the court expected me to conduct my own defence, despite my humble request for an opportunity to prepare, it seemed the only appropriate remedy for me to enforce my constitutional rights to a fair trial will lie with the Constitutional Court," she said. "It is disheartening for me, as it must be for millions of women and men who expect a democracy entails that fairness and justice would rank far higher than an obdurate adherence to rules of procedure."

There is speculation over why Mrs Mandela is continuing to resist the divorce. Some say it is for revenge, others believe she fears loss of power and influence. A close family friend said: "Her resistance to the divorce is a way of vindicating herself and restoring her dignity. It is that she is fighting for."

If that is the case, however, it seems to have backfired. Evidence in court has highlighted her infidelities and spendthrift ways. The President yesterday submitted new papers in court, describing her as a big spender living beyond her means.

The papers showed that Mr Mandela gave her more than three million rands (more than £50,000) between February 1990 and June 1995. The highest amount listed was 600,000 rands for Mrs Mandela's mansion in an area of Soweto dubbed Beverly Hills, which she came close to losing after defaulting on mortgage repayments.

Another 552,000 rands was for the legal costs of her kidnapping trial after the killing of Stompe Moketsi Seipe, a teenage activist.

Mr Mandela's original affidavit disclosed that while his ex-wife earns 16,000 rands a month as an ANC MP, she spends 107,000.

The papers also show that Mr Mandela lavished gifts on their two daughters, spending 996,000 rands buying them houses, cars and paying for their children's schooling. It has been suggested that, despite claims about his wealth, Mr Mandela does not have a large amount of disposable income. A third of his income goes to a children's fund and his two homes are thought to be owned by the ANC. Yet the documents show that he has spent about four million rands on three family members over the past five years.

Despite her position, Mrs Mandela is clearly determined to fight on. A friend said: "She is strong and determined to fight back. You can't put a lion down."

The papers showed that Mr Mandela gave her more than three million rands (more than £50,000) between February

Raid on Ugandan village leaves 34 dead

FROM SAM KILEY
IN NAIROBI

CHRISTIAN extremists, backed by Sudan's radical Islamic regime, killed 34 people and kidnapped 58 others in a raid on a north Ugandan village. The attack put the death toll in an upsurge of violence by the Lord's Resistance Army in the past fortnight at more than 200.

The raid on Pabo village, 230 miles north of Kampala, the Ugandan capital, occurred as Islamic militants in neighbouring Sudan took control of the group which wants to set up a regime in Uganda based on the Ten Commandments.

The Lord's Resistance Army, formed in 1987 by a self-proclaimed prophetess, Alice Lakwena, has a reputation for brutality. Those who reject it have their lips cut off with secateurs. Its soldiers

National Islamic Front at the centre of parliamentary power and erodes the executive authority of Omar al-Bashir, who won the presidential contest.

Their victory is likely to lead to greater backing for the Lord's Resistance Army despite the Khartoum Government's claim that it lends support to the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA).

Angered by the raids, President Museveni of Uganda vowed this week to wipe out the force within six months. He accused Khartoum of backing the group which wants to set up a regime in Uganda based on the Ten Commandments.

The Lord's Resistance Army, formed in 1987 by a self-proclaimed prophetess, Alice Lakwena, has a reputation for brutality. Those who reject it have their lips cut off with secateurs. Its soldiers

have gone into battle holding sticks that Ms Lakwena claimed would turn into weapons. They also rubbed oil on their bodies oil that Ms Lakwena had blessed, claiming that it would turn bullets to water. However, her inability to turn oil into battle armour led to President Museveni driving the group out of Uganda in 1990, and its high-priest into exile in Kenya.

Khartoum, stung by Uganda's covert backing for the SPLA, has rearmed the Lord's Resistance Army, which crossed back into Uganda this year with 500 soldiers. They have teamed up with a force already in the country, led by Joseph Kony, their new high-priest. The group has kept the Ugandan Army on the run, recently ambushing a 17-vehicle convoy and killing more than 150 people.

Dunblane's sympathy

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER
IN JERUSALEM

WHILE Kenneth Clarke's "friends" hint that he might resign over a commitment to hold a referendum on the European single currency, thousands of miles away in South Africa yesterday he showed his determination to enjoy the perks of office.

Except for his pinstripe suit, the chortling Chancellor might have been mistaken for any middle-aged British tourist on a visit to Soweto. Soaking up the sunshine, the paunchy minister went on a

jolly walkabout yesterday morning, sampling cold drinks, nibbling snacks and joking with residents.

The Chancellor, who has a knack of including bird watching on foreign visits, is on a fact-finding mission for British business. He has been accompanied by ten executives from leading companies to discuss business opportunities and privatisation.

Mr Clarke was in Soweto to see some of the projects supported by British aid. These

Israelis destroy 'terror homes'

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER
IN JERUSALEM

THREE Palestinian family members in the occupied West Bank were demolished by Israeli security forces yesterday.

The action, despite protests by Israeli human rights groups, was part of an operation to destroy the homes of seven Islamic suicide bombers and their accomplices.

The sappers blew up the home of Ibrahim Sarhan, who killed one person in a suicide attack in Ashkelon on February 25, thousands of residents of al-Fawwar refugee camp where he lived were

herded on to a nearby hill. The Palestinians shouted "God is greatest" and threw stones at Israeli troops, who responded with rubber bullets and live ammunition before a bulldozer flattened the remains of the two-storey house.

"This is a collective punishment which does not solve the problems of Jews and Arabs and does not serve the peace process," said Adnan Ghatai, 35, a resident of the squallid camp near Hebron.

Soon after he spoke, another house in the camp was blown up. It belonged to Majdi Abu Wardah, who killed 25 people in the first of two attacks on

Gaza. A court here has sentenced three Palestinian men to hang for murdering a moneychanger. They have ten days to appeal. It is the first time that judges in the self-ruled area have imposed the death penalty. (Reuters)

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Kenneth Clarke greets "Mr Lover Man", encased in a condom to promote Aids awareness, in Soweto yesterday

Relaxed Clarke practises safe politics

BY INIGO GILMORE

WHILE Kenneth Clarke's "friends" hint that he might resign over a commitment to hold a referendum on the European single currency, thousands of miles away in South Africa yesterday he showed his determination to enjoy the perks of office.

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Mr Clarke was in Soweto to see some of the projects supported by British aid. These

Consul is held in babies for sale probe

BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER

JORDAN announced yesterday that it had arrested Sri Lanka's honorary consul as part of an investigation into the sale of illegitimate babies of Sri Lankan maids to childless couples around the world. Judicial sources in Amman said the babies were sold for between £5,000 to £6,500 each, but would not disclose the number of children involved. There are an estimated 16,000 Sri Lankans in the Hashemite kingdom, mainly working as maids for about £65 a month.

Government officials said Tawfiq Abu Khajil, a leading Jordanian businessman who serves as honorary consul, faced an investigation on several charges. He is currently in hospital after complaining of heart pains.

Diplomatic sources in Amman believe that the case could have links to other parts of the Middle East. In Colombo, the Sri Lankan Foreign Ministry told Reuter that it was aware of the case, but had no details.

Some Sri Lankan maids in Jordan, made pregnant by their employers or lovers, have been forced to return home with the child after standing trial for conceiving out of wedlock. Under Jordanian law, adoption is permitted, but under tight restrictions.

It was unclear last night whether any British families were involved.



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Quentin Letts reports from New York on the launch of a fashion list that has dished the dirt on its rival

Who decides who dresses the best?

New York's grande dame of fashion is being challenged for her perch. Eleanor Lambert, who since 1940 has run the List of the World's Best-Dressed Women and whose social pronouncements can mince the most ambitious Lady Wishfort into carboard, finds herself with serious competition for the first time in more than half a century.

An imperious young man called Michael Gross has started a rival list. To make matters worse, he is a one-time member of Miss Lambert's salon, and has dished the dirt on what goes on there — the social mugging, the graciously concealed backstabbing, the ballot tweaking. The betrayal is too ghastly for words and, behind the rustle of taffeta, the whispers are deafening.

Miss Lambert, who runs a fashion publicity company, knows the inside of every decent duplex on Fifth Avenue. She is Manhattan's answer to the combined clout of London's Christina Foyle and Betty Kenward. Her annual list is a social and historical chronicle, tending to favour diplomats' daughters, dames with old money and, to add zest, the occasional elegant movie actress. Its publication is eagerly awaited and was traditionally seen as a barometer of social progress as much as style. Tiffany, the jeweller, courts Miss Lambert's patronage and the wives of European noblemen pay homage in the hope of favours. Aged 80-plus, Miss Lambert glides through Upper East Side society with ease, raising a fragile hand, Queen Mum-style, to acknowledge the strong's salutes.

That frail mutt, in recent days, is rumoured to have been balled in irritation at the antics of the young Mr Gross. He, in conjunction with *Manhattan File* magazine, has announced the creation of a new annual register, the List of Best-Dressed New Yorkers Aged 40 and Under. The implication is clear: Miss Lambert's list has in recent

years started to resemble a group outing from the Diana Vreeland Retirement Home. Not content with starting a rival list, the impish Mr Gross, who has a solid if sharp reputation in New York fashion, rated on his experiences as a committee member on Miss Lambert's list. He described how he and certain other fashion pundits were summoned one February day to her lair on Manhattan's Upper East Side to sift through the people nominated by more than 1,000 selected voters around the world. In fact, wrote Mr Gross, he and most of his colleagues "sat in

stunned silence" while proceedings were marshalled and nominations polished by Miss Lambert's sidekick, the late Jerome Zipkin. Mr Zipkin and a couple of cronies, claimed Mr Gross, would "slice and dice" the reputation of people they knew well "until the poor soul's sartorial (not to mention social and sexual) reputations were left for dead on Miss Lambert's floor".

A source discloses that Mr Zipkin could not endure Mr Gross. "He was furious with Eleanor for letting Michael be a committee member," says the mole. "Jerry treated him with disdain. Perhaps Michael is getting his own back."

From its first days, the Lambert formula followed money, power and circular cachet. Take the 1964 list. A copy of a press release issued on January 3, 1965, hails the return of Mrs John P. Kennedy to the list after her period

Hackett. Scroll on a quarter of a century and the names on Miss Lambert's 1994 list somehow fail to surprise: Mrs Randolph Hearst, Princess Rosario of Bulgaria, Viscountess Linley and Harumi Klossowski de Rola.

By now there was a separate list for men which included John F. Kennedy Jnr, a pesky fellow called Fernando de Cordoba Hohenlohe, our own Hugh Grant and Prince Kyriil of Bulgaria.

Mr Gross's list of trendy young men and women is a far cry from such refinement. Drew Barrymore is there, as is Brad Pitt's grunge flame Gwyneth Paltrow, Uma Thurman, Elle Macpherson and a fashion editor by the name of Cricket Teslico. From the boys, Mr Gross selects ill-shaven specimens such as Matt Dillon and Johnny Depp, an "in" downtown bar owner called Eric Goode, a club promoter named Johnny Dynell and a ballet dancer called Jock Soto. For his

selection committee, Mr Gross has again gone for respectable hip. Conde Nast's James Truman is on it, as is Gucci's Tom Ford and a clutch of other designers. They were given the brief to be "irreverent and incorrigible", in opposition to Miss Lambert's more appreciative approach.

The grande dame herself

reacts to questions about the turncoat Mr Gross with spectacular indifference. "Yes, I think I read about this," she told me. "I couldn't care less if he wants to do it." She hoped that her committee members will continue to "draw a line at scruffiness" and noted that this sort of list is "an awfully easy way to fill up space in a magazine". Miss Lambert may be in the autumn of her years, but she is relishing this fight. She noted that Madonna

is on Mr Gross's list. "Oh," she said faintly, demonstrating wicked humour. "I believe we had her on our list a number of years ago — when she was wearing innovative clothes. These days she is just a bizarre dancer, isn't she? It doesn't seem to have much to do with clothes any more."

Miss Lambert has tried to make her list younger. In 1994, for instance, she named "young internationals who figured prominently in the voting

without appearing in the final lists". These included Maria Estrany y Gendre, the daughter of the former Argentine Ambassador to the US, Countess Tatjana von Bismarck, who is walking out with John Colman of the mustard family, and Christopher Fitzwilliam-Lay, a British banker on Wall Street. Fitzwilliam-Lay was as surprised as his friends by his inclusion, given that he wears English suits and careworn shirts. "My then girlfriend

was responsible, I think, but it put a spring in my step," he said. It also brought him a few satirical remarks from his workmates.

The Lambert/Gross battle is more than a skirmish off the catwalk. It is a dispute over the social helm of New York, a fight between Chanel fans and the Kate Spade handbag set, Upper East Side and Downtown. Miss Lambert, who has done so much for New York fashion, is game for the fray



Eleanor Lambert in 1966 (left) and now



Princess Lee Radziwill (left) was on Eleanor Lambert's best-dressed list in 1965. Michael Gross has included Elle Macpherson in this year's rival line-up



ELEANOR LAMBERT'S LIST	
Lady Sarah Chatto	F. de Córdoba
Veronica Hearst	Hugh Grant
Viscountess Linley	John Kennedy Jnr
Princess Rosario	Prince Kyriil
Danielle Steele	Henry Kravis

MICHAEL GROSS'S LIST	
Drew Barrymore	William Baldwin
India Hicks	Hamish Bowles
Elle Macpherson	Johnny Depp
Winona Ryder	Matt Dillon
Uma Thurman	John Kennedy Jnr

and is a credit to her generation.

Mr Gross, meanwhile, epitomises the iconoclastic wit of the modern age. Manhattanites are wary of saying which side they support.

Mr Gross's greatest

triumph was arguably when he was still sitting on Miss Lambert's committee. After listening in despair to the seemingly endless array of counts, royalty, Southern dynasties and Bulgarian barons, he suggested the name of Queen Latifah, without mentioning that she is not actually royal but is a black rap singer. "Hmm," replied the Lambert committee members, sucking on their pencils. "Interesting." It was then that Mr Gross recognised the task that lay before him, a task that Miss Lambert is determined the whippersnapper will not complete.

Getting through the morning after the night before

HEAVY night, then? Without doubt the most irritating rhetorical question in the world. Especially when you have arrived at the office shrunken-eyed, blotchy-skinned and with a head

intolerant of alien intrusion. The implication is that you have drunk foolishly the night before and will not be up to the daily workload.

But according to a report by Pennsylvania State University

that the implication is wrong. They exposed a group of managers to nearly four pints of beer over several hours, and found that their work the next morning was unaffected.

The findings were immediately pooh-poohed, however, by scientists and drinkers alike. Dr Barry Jones, a psychologist who specialises in alcohol research, raised the question of the quantity of alcohol administered, while legendary *bon viveur* Clement Freud was positively insulted.

"Four pints of beer is a ludicrous quantity," he ranted. "You can practically drive on that. If you can lie on the floor without holding on to anything then you are not technically drunk. And if you are really drunk you will be in no shape to work in the morning."

Anecdotal evidence is enough to corroborate Mr Freud's argument. We know

that certain rudimentary and repetitive tasks can be performed by hung-over individuals, such as counting cursor blinks on a computer screen, or drawing grids on bits of paper and then filling in alternate squares. But such operations are hardly the stuff of economic revival.

The hangover is densely shrouded in myth. There are little motions such as "wine before beer and you'll feel queer" or "hair of the dog", and any number of offbeat cures, from raw eggs and lemon juice to the secret restorative prepared for Bertrand Wooster by his gentleman.

"Most of the received wis-

cule the more likely you are to get a hangover."

Mixing drinks exposes you to more esters, but the order of drinking is immaterial. Likewise, people who stick to a regular tipple will develop a tolerance of its particular congeners. But if the habituated sherry-drinking granny succumbs to a drop of Baileys, the next morning's crochet circle will be a write-off.

And a poll of clinical pharmacists soon wrote off the report. They all insisted that hangovers make you feel sick because of the production of acetalddehyde — a stimulant of nausea — by an overloaded liver. This would not happen at the low alcohol level maintained in the tested managers.

There is only one question troubling insiders this morning: what exactly were the Pennsylvania researchers drinking the night before?

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Victims of the safety first society

Magnus Linklater asks whether the medical profession should make outcasts of mere eccentrics

A friend of mine who has suffered from manic depression for many years finally felt well enough to apply for a voluntary job. He was interviewed and provisionally accepted. The idea was that he would start working with the local meals-on-wheels service, visiting old people in the company of an experienced hand. Provided all went well, he might move on to other duties. There was just one condition — he needed two references. He decided to ask his local GP, and the consultant psychiatrist who had helped him back to full health.

Both refused him the reference. Their reasons were depressing, if predictable: in the present climate of uncertainty about the treatment of mental patients they had to act with extra caution: my friend had a history of mental illness, and they would be held accountable if anything went wrong; they felt that it would be safer all round if they withheld a recommendation. That he had been stable for a year, that he was a gentle soul with no history of violence and that he was especially good at working with people was less important than the potential risk.

All this took place well before the tragedy at Dunblane. I am afraid, however, that the savagery of Thomas Hamilton will have given those doctors little reason to change their minds. One of the many tragedies of that terrible day is that thousands of people trying to haul them back into the mainstream of society will, for the time being, be tarred by the Hamilton brush. There will be no prizes for risk-taking when it comes to re-appraising anyone with a history of mental illness. Could that shambolic figure muttering to himself on the street corner be a child-killer? Should that mental patient, recently discharged from hospital, be taken back inside — just in case? As one psychiatrist with a practice in the Dunblane area told me last week: "My first thought, when I heard of the shootings, was: 'Could it be one of mine?'"

In the aftermath of that disaster, every instinct will be to tighten up on the way society deals with its more fragile members. Psychiatrists will be urged to review their lists, to pass on doubts they may have about dubious individuals to the local police, to become, as it were, a filtering system for the nation's misfits. When it comes to gun controls, there is likely to be pressure for some kind of psychological profiling before licences are handed out.

There will be hard questions asked, too, about the Government's care in the community scheme, which was designed to release patients back into society. The initial argument for that policy was that reintegrating those with a history of mental illness, rather than shutting them away, would encourage tolerance and un-

Even the vaguely loopy are now seen as menacing

to continue his youth work, concluded that he was the victim of ill-founded gossip and innuendo, and ruled in his favour. In the light of this, it is very hard to assign blame to any of those who dealt with him — even the luckless police officer who signed his firearms certificate. There was, as in any civilised society, a presumption of innocence rather than guilt.

So it would be a terrible setback if, as a result of what happened in Dunblane, the traditional role of the medical services — to heal and to rehabilitate — were undermined; if psychiatric care were judged not by its success in easing the mentally ill back into circulation, but by its ability to isolate them; or if rumour and suspicion became sufficient reasons for refusing employment. What does need to be ensured is that sensible gun controls are introduced so that no one — whether a potential hitman or a careless Olympic marksman — is allowed open access to such deadly weapons.

My friend's tale, I am glad to say, does have a happy ending. He went back to the voluntary agency, which said that despite the psychiatrists' doubts it was perfectly happy to accept other, favourable, references. He is now working happily with a youth project which enjoys his contribution as much as he appreciates being able to take the first step back into becoming a full and productive member of society.



A poet rudely great

The sale of Pope's grotto serves to remind us of a poet who delighted in both satire and friendship

Alexander Pope is associated with many houses, with Prior Park in Bath, with Stanton Harcourt near Oxford, with Stowe in Buckinghamshire, even with Buckingham Palace, which he knew when it was a much prettier and rather smaller building. There are two brilliant engravings of old Buckingham House in Pope's 1723 edition of the Works of John Duke of Buckingham. Pope's own villa at Twickenham was pulled down in the 19th century, just as Shakespeare's house at Stratford-on-Avon was pulled down in the 18th, but the grotto Pope designed has survived, together with the convent which was eventually built on the site. Twickenham still has its tomb in the church — grave-robbing with an interest in phrenology are said to have stolen his skull — as well as that beautiful house, Marble Hill, where he used to visit Lady Suffolk. George II's deaf but delightful mistress.

According to The Times Diary, the convert and the grotto are now to be sold; there are proposals to turn the site into a memorial both to Pope and to the landscape movement which he encouraged. As a Somerset man, I have mixed feelings about the grotto itself: Pope's friend Dr Oliver, the inventor of the Bath Oliver biscuit, probably the finest biscuit ever baked, sawed off stalactites from Wookey Hole to ornament the grotto, and had a bath named there in his honour.

I believe that many people's characters are shaped by the authors whom they most admire and read again and again. No doubt everyone who went through the full educational process of my generation was influenced by Shakespeare and the Authorised Version of the Bible, the twin pillars of English culture in the mid 20th century. Four other authors have gripped my particular temperament and interests: two philosophers, John Locke and William James, one moral critic, Samuel Johnson, and one poet, Alexander Pope. To each of them I owe a debt comparable to that to my closest friends and most influential teachers. I should be a different person without them. I feel about all of them much as Thomas Gaunborough felt about Van Dyke. His last words were said to have been: "We are all going to heaven, and Van Dyke is of the company." Pope himself shared this conviction of personal survival. A few days before his death in 1744, he said: "I am so

certain of the soul's being immortal that I feel it within me, as it were by intuition".

My closeness to Pope started with my using him as an example of how to write. When I was at Charterhouse I even tried to imitate him directly, writing heroic couplets which were, I am sure, a miserable pastiche. One can only benefit from a study of any author's style when that author's work has been fully internalised, has become part of the fabric of one's own mind. For the writer of English, Pope is an essential model.

Pope's poetry is concise, energetic, ironic, clear and vivid. He uses visual images and contrast with great skill.

As Lytton Strachey observed, no author has ever packed more meaning into each phrase and each line, yet one never has the stifling feeling of excessive density.

When Voltaire was a young man, he came to England. In 1726 he wrote a charming letter sympathising with Pope after a carriage accident in which Pope had been "thrown into the river [Thames] with the glasses of the coach up, and was up to the knots of his periwig in water". Pope had received a bad cut on his hand; Voltaire wrote that the "accident concerns me as much as all the disasters of a master ought to affect his scholar".

Voltaire came to write French prose better than it had been written before or since, so well that his style is the style of educated France. Voltaire has exactly the combination of energy, lucidity and conciseness which is so marked in Pope's poetry. Pope's own phrase for it is "easy vigour"; that must still be the aim of every writer who wishes his meaning to have force, and his readers to enjoy reading what he writes.

Not everyone finds it easy to love Pope. He had a joy in combat which reflects the pain of his life. He was satirical by nature, he was devious and he was conscious of being a cripple. For his disability it is easy to

sympathise with him, but one has to accept that he took delight in tormenting his enemies: one can imagine Lord Hervey at the breakfast table reading the character of Sporus:

Yet let melap this bug with gilded wings,
This painted child of dirt that stinks and sings;
Whose buzz the witty and the fair
Amours.
Yet wit ne'er tastes, and beauty never
enjoys.
So well bred spangles civily delight
In mummuring of the game they dare not
bite.

Even now the accusation of androgynous impotence is rarely made,

though we regard ourselves as more free-spoken than our 18th-century ancestors. Pope's darts got to the heart, and many of them are tipped with venom.

I am drawn to Pope partly because

I share both his enjoyment of controversy in print and his liking for easy relations in person. Like him, I find it hard to resist making sharp comments on public characters — Hervey was a minister in Walpole's Government. I also share his preference for rows in print to those in person. I often use his phrases, sometimes even storing them up. I am still waiting for the public scandal worthy of the line, "And the fresh vomit run forever green".

William Rees-Mogg

In company, Pope was mild; despite his verbal skills, he would not have enjoyed mixing it on the box with the dunces of our age. He was also a good and loyal friend. Apart from problems that arose from women — he exchanged unforgivable insults with Lady Mary Wortley Montagu and had a coolness even with the benevolent Ralph Allen over an apparent slight to his friend Martha Blount — he kept most of his friends for a lifetime. They were remarkable people, including Jonathan Swift. His letters illustrate his friendships.

Today the Commons debates the White Paper on Europe, to which I replied yesterday in my own Blue Paper. This debate is so fundamental to the future of Britain that both Government and Opposition thought it wise to bury the issue with a one-line whip. This shows how far the Europeanisation of Britain has undermined the vitality and integrity of British politics.

The essence of British conservatism is that we retain through our Parliament the capacity to adapt to changing circumstances while insisting on the fixed and immutable principles of democracy, accountability and self-government. No British Government has the right to give this inheritance away.

The process of European integration contradicts these principles. The White Paper, high on rhetoric, is low on principle and silent on renegotiation of Britain's position. When I proposed putting monetary union on the agenda of the inter-governmental conference (IGC), so that this matter could be discussed as a question of principle, the Foreign Secretary replied: "I do not follow your suggestion that it is a matter of principle."

The White Paper speaks of our need to be "realistic about the sort of changes we can hope to achieve at the IGC . . . If we were to press ideas which stand no chance of general acceptance, some others would seek to impose an integrationist agenda which would be equally unacceptable". This is not realism; it is defeatism, even appeasement. It betrays a deeper problem, which the White Paper avoids, a stubborn refusal to renegotiate the Maastricht treaty despite all the evidence of its failure — in the areas of jobs, the exchange-rate mechanism, monetary union, Bosnia and fishing. We must reduce the powers of the Court of Justice by reducing the competencies already granted. Maastricht entails an integrationist programme for European government, which must be repealed.

Speaking last month in Louvain, Chancellor Kohl failed to distinguish between nationalism and the democratic nation-state, when he threatened that the failure of European integration would lead to war. The truth is that we run this risk if we undermine the democratic nation-state. Chancellor Kohl insisted that "German unity and European integration are two sides of . . . the same coin". The Treaty on European Union is the acquisition of power by other means.

This issue should not be seen as a matter of left or right, but as a matter of national interest, on which the British people have a right to a referendum. There is yet time to resolve these questions, for the IGC does not begin until March 29, and will continue until after the general election. This raises the question of the Conservative Party manifesto and the Labour Party.

The failure of the exchange-rate mechanism before our exit on September 16, 1992, severely damaged the Conservatives' credibility in government, but we are steadily recovering it. The party must show the British people that this debacle could not happen again, by ruling out the exchange-rate mechanism and monetary union in our manifesto and during the inter-governmental conference.

The Labour Party is trapped. Gordon Brown says he wants managed exchange rates and monetary union. But if we Conservatives rule this out in our manifesto, we can demonstrate that Labour will be unable to fulfil its promises about jobs, health, education, public expenditure and a host of other issues. To fail to do so would be to throw away our best weapon in the general election. This involves renegotiating Maastricht, and perhaps telling the other EU members that otherwise we will veto the IGC.

Our British identity and independence have been withering in the face of attacks by Brussels, power-play in Germany and France, and the activities of Euro-fanatics at home. Conservatives must now match the rhetoric of the White Paper by putting British interests first when it comes to policy. We have been treated with too much contempt for too long by those with whom we have tried to co-operate. We can and will work with our partners in Europe, but only on mutual terms, not simply on theirs. We will not be trampled on. We will not watch as our laws are overturned by the Court of Justice and our institutions, which have stood the test of time, are derided and treated as hollow. We have saved Britain and Europe twice in a century, and we are now called upon to do so again.

If we do not regain for ourselves the only sovereignty which really counts, which is the political will and authority of a democratic nation, we shall deserve to fail. Then we shall enter a dark age of subordination to the will of others, and the Conservative Party will lose its *raison d'être*. As Disraeli said, "The Tory Party is a national party or it is nothing".

The author is Conservative MP for Stafford. The Blue Paper is available from The European Foundation, 1 Pall Mall, London SW1 (E5).

About time

JOHN MAJOR'S great scheme to embarrass companies into paying their bills on time has sent one little firm into a flurry of activity. Thwaites & Reed, one of the oldest clockmakers in the country, has reorganised its business so that it can sue the Government for unpaid bills — while continuing to work for it.

The firm, founded in 1740, attends to Big Ben's repairs as well as mending external clocks on royal palaces. It is planning to sue for debts of more than £200,000 run up by Whitehall.

The bills date back many years, to when Whitehall scrapped internal agencies within the Department of the Environment without paying off the money they owed to Thwaites & Reed. The clockmaker has been a fruitless paperchase to try to recover its money, and is now resorting to the courts.

"It was only recently that we were able to rearrange the business so that we could sue while at the same time carrying on our work for the Government," says Melvyn Lee, who owns the company. "We never thought of carrying out a credit check."

Bong!

• Amid the latest flurry over "mad cow" disease, Douglas Hogg is un-daubed. The Minister of Agriculture was in the Members' dining room of the Commons on Tuesday, digging unashamed into a piled plate of roast beef.

China shop

OXFORD University's Bullingdon Club, a tail-coated organisation



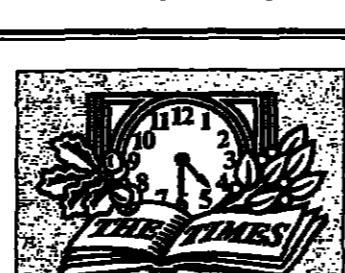
given to indiscriminate room-trashing and indeterminate stripers, is to let rip in the Natural History Museum. The famously debauched dining society has booked the main hall of the museum for its first ball in decades, on June 14.

All members past and present — ranging from Lord Longford, prison visitor, to Darius Guppy, former prison resident — have been invited to shun around the skeletons.

The Natural History Museum, which rents out its main hall for £5,500 a night, seems to be unaware of the club's reputation for debagging, lobster-throwing and rolling mobile loos down hills. "We have a booking for the Oxford University Club," said a member of the booking staff. "That sounds respectable enough." They could end up with a large pile of bones.

Foxed

THE BROTHERS FOX (Edward and James) have been working together at last. Yesterday, they were at an advance screening of *Gulliver's Travels*, their first ever collaboration, which goes out on Channel 4 from this Sunday, and spent the time teasing people who had confused them. "We do look a lot like each other



and people seem to get us mixed up. This film should provide for even more muddle," said James. Edward chipped in with a viewing tip: "I'm the one with the bigger wig," he said proudly of the powdered bouffant he sports.

As was

THE PORTRAIT painter Andre Durand, whose endeavours on canvas can be as saccharine as Anna Pasternak's prose, has whipped out his pallet again. After his extraordinary portrait of the Prince of Wales and the young Prince William and Harry in baseball caps astride a charger, he has turned his attention to the Queen.

Not, however, Her Majesty as she is today, with occasional wrinkles and slightly greying hair, but as a young woman in the bloom of

youth. "I am painting her in her twenties, as a tender and sensual beauty in a purple robe against a red sky surrounded by North American Indians. It is going to be called White Magic."

Battle of . . .

MY SUGGESTION that the Editor of the *Evening Standard*, Max Hastings, might care to buy the title Baron Hastings of Hastings (for sale at £25,000-£30,000) has gone down poorly with the 22nd Baron Hastings (title created in 1920). "I shall have to contact my solicitor," he thundered yesterday. "No one else is entitled to call himself Lord Hastings. It's totally fraudulent and I have plenty of heirs to follow me."

Strutt & Parker, who are advertising the sale, stand by the professed barony. "The whole thing has been fully researched and it is available for sale."

Second look

DENNIS POTTER aficionados may care to take notice of Keeley Hawes, a 20-year-old model, who will be making something of a splash as the female star of *Karaoke*. She plays opposite Richard E. Grant in the television mini-series,



one of the late playwright's last works, to be screened next month.

She confesses that she is new to stardom. "I play a model who gets a film part because she is having an affair with the director, and it all starts to get a bit seedy," she says. "My biggest part previously was when I was at the National Theatre aged 12. I played a child prostitute."

P.H.S



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 19: Captain Sudhikumar Gurung, The Queen's Gurkha Engineers, and Captain Chandrabudh Rai, The Royal Gurkha Rifles, (The Queen's Gurkha Orderly Officers) were received by The Queen. When Her Majesty invested them with the insignia of Members of the Royal Victorian Order.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 20: His Excellency Mr Ahmed Zaki was received in audience by The Queen and presented her Letters of Commission as High Commissioners for the Republic of Maldives in London.

Mr John Cole (Permanent Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs) was present.

The Queen, Patron, Royal Army Ordnance Corps, received Major General Michael Callan (President) who presented the Annual Report of the Trust to Her Majesty.

Brigadier Michael Owen (Secretary, Royal Army Ordnance Corps Charitable Trust) was also received by The Queen.

The following were received in audience by The Queen and kissed hands: the new appointment as Her Majesty's Ambassador: Mr William Fullerton (the Kingdom of Morocco), Mr James McCullough (the Republic of Iceland) and Mr Peter Smith (the Kingdom of Lesotho).

Mrs Fullerton, Mrs McCullough and Mrs Smith were also received by The Queen.

The Queen, Patron, the Guide Association, this afternoon opened the new Guide Heritage Centre, Buckingham Palace Road, London SW1, and was received by The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon (President), Mrs Margaret Wright (Chairwoman) and Comptroller Martin Jagger (Deputy Lord Mayor of Westminster).

The Baroness Miller of Henden (Baroness in Waiting) was present at Heathrow Airport, London, this morning upon the departure of the Governor-General of Canada and Madame LeBlanc to bid their Excellencies farewell on behalf of The Queen.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 20: The Princess Royal, Patron, attended the Butler Trust Awards ceremony and Luncheon at Buckingham Palace.

Her Royal Highness this evening attended the Transaid Board Dinner

at the British Railways Board, Euston House, Euston Street, London, NW1.

CLARENCE HOUSE

March 20: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother this afternoon received the Presidents of Queen Mary's Clothing Guild at St James's Palace on the occasion of the Guild's Annual General Meeting.

Dame Frances Campbell-Preston was in attendance.

ST JAMES'S PALACE

March 20: The Prince of Wales this morning visited the Central Office of Information, Hercules Road, London, SE1, on the occasion of its Fifteenth Anniversary.

His Royal Highness this afternoon visited Asprey, New Bond Street, London W1, toured the workshops and was entertained to luncheon by the Chairman.

The Prince of Wales later held a meeting at St James's Palace to discuss the re-use of redundant buildings.

His Royal Highness, Patron, the Macmillan Appeal, this evening attended a Concert in aid of the Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund at the Royal Albert Hall, London SW7.

YORK HOUSE

ST JAMES'S PALACE

March 20: The Duke of Kent, Vice-Chairman, the British Overseas Trade Board, this morning visited Munsaddiq Industrial Generators Limited, Cedars Hall Road, Luton, Bedfordshire, and was met by the arrival of Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Leicestershire (Mr Timothy Brooks).

His Royal Highness this afternoon visited Loughborough Sound Images Limited, Ashby Road, Loughborough; and later visited Virtual Entertainment Limited, Bradford Industrial Park, Leicestershire.

The Duchess of Kent this morning visited the North Yorkshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust, Ambergate, Derbyshire, and as Patron, the Choir School's Association, visited York Minster Choir School, Deangate, York.

Primitive diet advice is hard to swallow

By JOHN VINCENT

A VAST library contradicting the notion that dieting is a modern obsession is expected to fetch up to £170,000 at a Christie's auction in London tomorrow. More than 1,000 volumes dating back to the 15th century were collected by John Yudkin, an East Endner who became Britain's first professor of nutrition.

Some of the advice might be difficult for a modern dietician to stomach. Thomas Cogan, in the 1605 book *The Haven of Health*, eschewed the eating of raw pears and apples: "Peares eaten raw make waterish and corrupt bloud, and beside that, they engender wind and so cause the Colicke."

An 1820 treatise on *Adulterations of Food and Culinary Poisons*, by Frederick Accum, exposed the widespread use of potentially lethal additives. They included alum for whitening flour; tea with leaves from hedgerows; pepper adulterated with floor sweepings; and pickles made green with copper.

One of the rarest volumes is a 1475 first edition of possibly the world's first

Today's royal engagements

The Prince of Wales will be the host at a concert and dinner at Buckingham Palace at 7.00 to mark Lord Menihin's 80th birthday.

The Duke of Kent will also attend.

The Princess Royal, as Patron of the National Deafblind and Rubella Association, will visit a Sense shop at 4 Blackwell Street, Swan Centre, Kidderminster, at 10.10; as President of the Save the Children Fund, will visit the fund shop at 18 Pump Street, Worcester, at 11.00; and as President of the British Knitting and Clothing Export Council, will visit Action Apparel, 11/12 Palmers Road, East Moors Moat, Redditch, at 12.10.

The Duchess of Kent, as patron, will visit the Department of Orthotics, Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre, Windmill Road, Headington, Oxford, at 11.30.

Stonyhurst College

The Governors of Stonyhurst College, Lancashire, are pleased to announce that Mr Adrian Aylward, currently a Headmaster and a Headmaster's Deputy at Dowsdale School, is to succeed Dr Giles Mercer as Headmaster of Stonyhurst College when Dr Mercer becomes Head of Prior Park College in September 1996.

Africans were massacred by police at Sharpeville, South Africa, 1960. Alcatraz prison closed, 1963.

Anniversaries

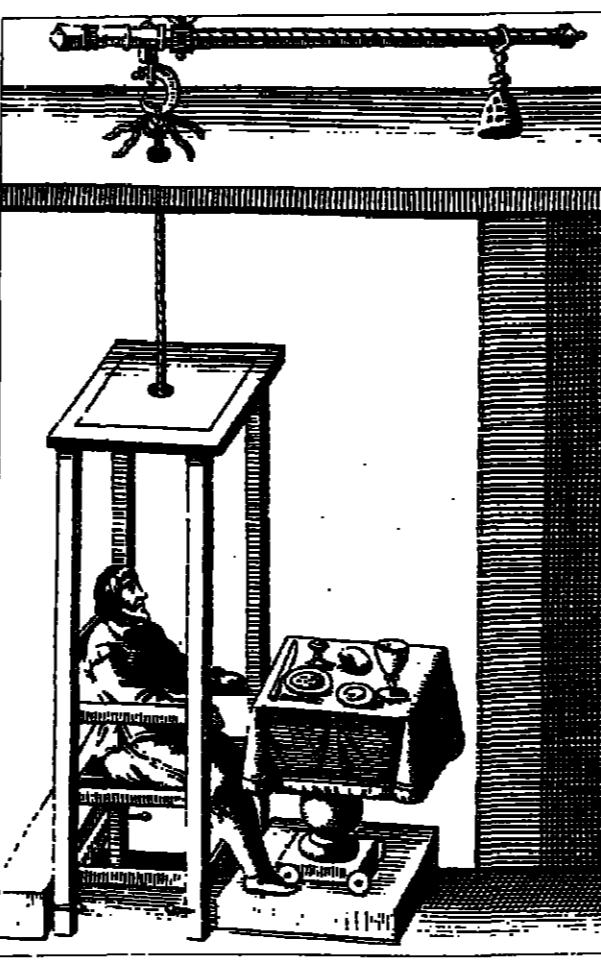
BIRTHS: Johann Sebastian Bach, composer, Eisenach, Germany, 1685; Claude-Nicolas Ledoux, architect, Domfront-sur-Maine, 1736; Jean Paul Richter, humorist, Wurzburg, Germany, 1763; Jean-Baptiste Fourier, mathematician, Auxerre, France, 1768; Henry Kirke White, poet, Nottingham, 1785; Benito Juarez, President of Mexico, 1806-72; San Pablo, Mexico, 1806; Modest Mussorgsky, composer, Karevo, 1839; Albert Chevalier, music hall entertainer, London, 1861; H.A.L. Fisher, historian, London, 1865; Florence Ziegfeld, theatrical producer, Chicago, 1899; Hans Holmann, painter, Weissenberg, Germany, 1890; Erich Mendelsohn, architect, Allenstein, East Prussia, 1887.

DEATHS: Thomas Cranmer, Archbishop of Canterbury 1533-56, buried at the state, Oxford, 1556; James Ussher, Archbishop of Armagh 1625-56, Reigate, Surrey, 1656; Samuel Parker, Bishop of Oxford 1686-88, Oxford, 1688; John Law, economist, Venice, 1729;

Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge
Derek Clifford Nicholls, MA, PhD, University Lecturer in Land Economy, has been elected to a Fellowship in Class A.

Today's events

The Queen's Life Guard mounts at Horse Guards at 11.00.



Santorio Santorio, a 17th-century Padua professor, in a chair recording weight change after eating

cooky book, by Bartolomeo Platina. The "humanist" treatise on the art of good living" is estimated to fetch £3,000-5,000.

Mr Yudkin, who died last year aged 85, was the son of Orthodox Jewish parents

who fled the Russian pogroms of 1905. He became professor of nutrition at Queen Elizabeth College, London University, from 1954 to 1971. The collection is being sold by his son Michael to endow a scholarship.

The Duke of Kent will also attend.

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ARIES

George Bankoff, author and Harley Street surgeon, died on March 15 aged 94. He was born on October 15, 1901.

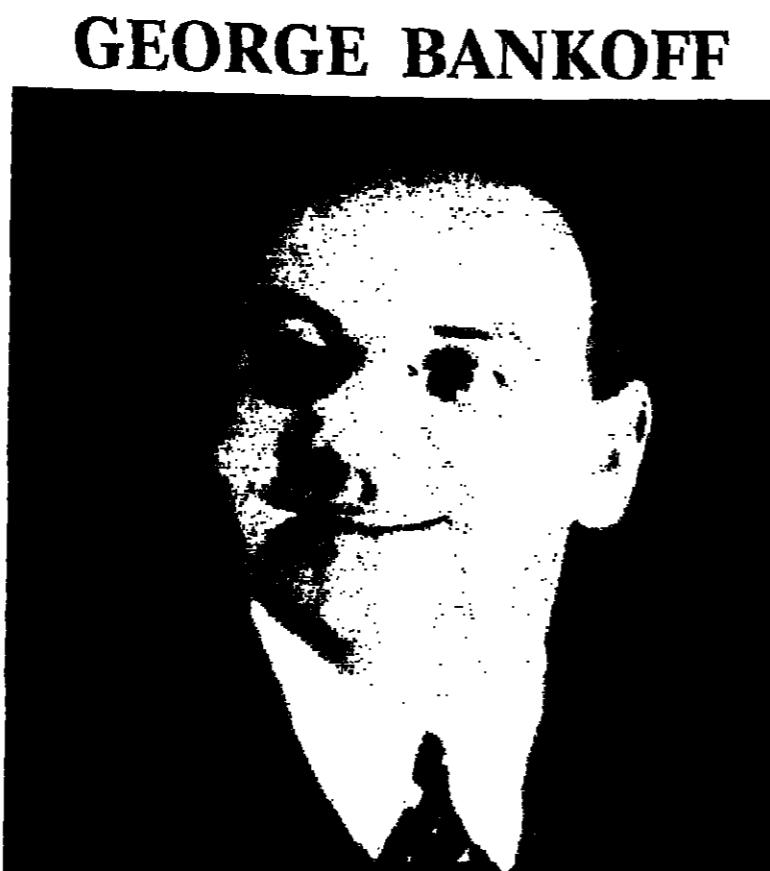
NUMEROUS medical men have succeeded in combining their professional practice with the writing of plays, poems and novels, but few have exhibited the fecundity and versatility of George Bankoff. The Harley Street surgeon who wrote treatises on general and plastic surgery was unknown to the public which followed George Sava and George Borodin — the names under which he published his popular books. The majority of his works were of an autobiographical or fictional nature, and in a large number the two ingredients were inextricably woven together. For, in Bankoff's case, the story of his own life and adventures was sufficiently remarkable to provide him with an inexhaustible source of material.

Bankoff was a talented linguist — he spoke eight languages fluently — but he never quite lost the accent of his homeland, Russia. Nor did he lose much of his exuberant Russian character. He was born Georgi Alexei Bankoff, in Samokov in Bulgaria, the son of Colonel Ivan Alexandrovich Bankoff and Countess Maria Ignatiev. His father was a Bulgarian who was serving in the Russian Imperial Army, and the young Georgi was fostered when he was five years old by his mother's brother, General Aleksandr Ignatiev, who brought him up in Russia.

He attended school there and in 1913 entered the Russian Imperial Royal Academy. He was a cadet at the Naval Academy at Kronstadt when the Revolution broke out. Afterwards he settled on medicine as a career, studying in various schools at Sofia, Florence, Rome, Munich, Berlin and Bonn. In 1929 he graduated with doctorates of medicine and surgery from Florence, gaining the highest honours that year.

In 1931 he took a second MD degree at Erlangen, and while working in Germany he also obtained the higher surgical diploma and the diploma in tuberculosis. He refused to have anything to do with the Nazis when they came to power and in 1934 fled to England.

He was entitled to practise in Britain by virtue of his Italian qualifications but after suffering some deprecating comments on these from British col-



GEORGE BANKOFF

leagues, he threw himself into further study at Manchester, Glasgow and Edinburgh. However, he now found himself among the first wave of political exiles and refugees from the Continent. He had to compete with many highly qualified medical men, some of international fame, and the young polyglot surgeon found that he had a hard road to tread.

Nothing daunted him and after many trials and vicissitudes he succeeded in obtaining hospital appointments and in establishing himself as a consultant in Harley Street in the latter half of the 1930s. He was appointed surgeon to the Italian Hospital in Queen Square, London, and he was also for a time an assistant in the Plastic Surgery Department of St James's Hospital. In 1940 he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow and in 1942 he became a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh.

It was during the war, when he worked as a surgeon in the Emergency Medical Service, that he became interested in the new science of plastic

surgery. He worked in very much the same field as Sir Archibald McIndoe (although not with him), rebuilding the faces and bodies of injured servicemen. Plastic surgery remained thereafter his chief medical interest.

His professional writings included manuals on *Plastic Surgery* (1943), *Operative Surgery* (1946) and *The Practice of Local Anaesthesia* (3rd edition, 1948). He also wrote more or less "popular" books on surgery, plastic surgery, cancer, tuberculosis and penicillin. He visited America and acted as associate professor of surgery at various hospitals and medical schools.

In the early 1950s he was invited back to the University of Rome, where he became their first Professor of Plastic Surgery. Amazingly, he managed to maintain three plastic surgery practices across the world — in Rome, in Harley Street and in America (first in Washington, later in Los Angeles). He was still practising privately well into his seventies, but had left Harley Street by the early 1970s. He continued to divide his time thereafter between these three countries.

Bankoff did not like to work within fixed government parameters, and while he did not actually disagree with the introduction of the National Health Service in Britain, he did not have much to do with it. He ran, instead, his own version of democratic healthcare. Those who could afford to pay handsomely did, but those who could not, gave what they could — which might mean as little as an invitation to dinner.

Bankoff had taken to his pen for support during the difficult days of the late 1930s when he had been struggling to establish himself as a consulting surgeon in London. The stream of books which were to make him the Simenon of the medical world was inaugurated in 1937 with a volume entitled *The Healing Knife*. This is the most straightforwardly autobiographical of his books: subsequent volumes which appeared at the rate of three or four a year contained a much larger mixture of fiction and presented the author in an amazing series of adventures.

These included *Beauty from the Surgeon's Knife*, *A Surgeon's Destiny*, *A Ring at the Door*, *The Knife Heals Again*, and *The Way of a Surgeon*. In these books Bankoff's surgeon protagonist was never daunted and never afraid. Coolly and with supreme confidence he faced every difficulty and emergency, from the total reconstruction of an ugly face to the removal of an inflamed appendix with a penknife by the light of a candle.

In a further series of books, Bankoff drew upon his own experiences of Russia and of many strange parts of the Middle East — for example *Russia Triumphant*, *A Tale of Ten Cities*, *Valley of Forgotten People*, *The Chetniks and Rasputin Speaks*. *Invitation to Ballet* was about the ballet (another passion), while *Link of Two Hearts* was an epistolary novel about an imaginary daughter who is living through the Blitz. *Gipsy and Call It Life* were more or less straightforward novels, with of course, the usual medical background. Bankoff had a wonderful command of the English language and he knew how to tell a story. There have been many exponents of the *Healing Knife* type of book, but it is doubtful whether any of them have excelled George Sava.

Bankoff married in 1939 Jannette Hollingdale, by whom he had two sons and two daughters, all of whom survive him.

BARRY APPLEBY



Barry Appleby, cartoonist, died on March 11 aged 86. He was born on August 30, 1909.

THE GAMBOLS, Barry Appleby's strip cartoon, appeared every day in the *Daily Express* for 46 years. It became one of the staples of what the proprietor, Lord Beaverbrook, modestly described as the world's greatest newspaper.

In fact, the Gambols were well known far beyond Britain. Appleby wisely kept the syndication rights for himself and they brought him a great deal of money. If he sometimes wondered why his amiable portrait of a middle-class couple in the Home Counties appealed to readers in the Far East and small-town America, he did not allow this to worry him. He knew it provided a standard of living which enabled him to buy a new Rolls-Royce every other year.

Appleby, born and educated initially in the West Midlands, was brought by his journalist father to live in Kingston upon Thames while he was still a teenager. There, in surroundings which might have been borrowed from a later Gambols cartoon, he met his future wife Doris, always known as Dobs. She became the most important influence in starting his career and throughout the rest of his life.

He decided to follow his father's profession, working first as a freelance contributor to boys' papers and trade magazines, and later as a sports sub-editor on the *Daily Express*. He had been a promising schoolboy artist and he was soon contributing pocket cartoons to his paper's sports pages. Then, in 1950, Appleby and his wife conceived the idea of the Gambols. It was a joint creation and difficult to decide which Appleby was mainly responsible for the concept. Later they agreed to share the honours.

Arthur Christiansen, the Editor of the *Express* who had seen it become the first daily paper to reach a circulation of

four million, immediately recognised the potential of the Gambols. Many *Express* readers identified with the couple — middle-class, middle-minded, with a reasonable disposable income despite occasional money worries and devoted to well-intentioned but ultimately disastrous "do-it-yourself" carpentry. It was a profile which *Daily Express* advertisers also appreciated.

The Gambols' success coincided with a high tide of the paper's success when it reached its record circulation of 4·1 million under Christiansen's successor, Edward (now Sir Edward) Pickering. Other traditional *Express* features and famous by-lines were discarded by future editors as the paper's circulation fell. But the Gambols continued, even though they were demoted — much to Appleby's irritation — from a prime position on the back page to a slot inside the paper.

Gaye Gambol, the zany female character, was supposedly modelled on Dobs Appleby. It is true there were slight resemblances. In most respects, however, Dobs was the opposite of Gaye. She was hard-headed, a brilliant manager of her husband's finances and herself a substantial contributor to the strip cartoon.

Husband and wife shared ideas for the gags, and the strip cartoon was usually drawn with the two sitting and working opposite each other. Barry did the main drawing while Dobs supplied some of the background and was responsible for all the feminine aspects. On occasions when Appleby was not available she is believed to have drawn the entire strip herself.

Together they provided a vision of Britain which never varied. It was as if time had been frozen in Kingston upon Thames from the moment the Gambols were created at the beginning of the 1950s. There was no violence in their lives, no social stress and sex was something which took place out of sight. The Gambols always occupied single beds.

Eventually Dobs and Barry Appleby moved from Kingston, first to a house near Dorking and then to Castle Cary in Somerset. Dobs died in 1985 but Barry continued drawing until he suffered a stroke last month. He died five days before he would have celebrated the 46th anniversary of the first Gambols cartoon appearing in the *Daily Express*.

Barry and Dobs Appleby had no children.

OLGA RUDGE



convoluted philosophical musings, at that time being incorporated into the Cantos. He had then been married for five years to Dorothy, daughter of Olivia Shakespear (Yeats's friend). But Pound, like many writers of his generation, had a lax approach to marriage and fidelity, and began a very public liaison with Olga almost immediately. In 1925 she bore him his first child, Mary.

To avoid scandal the child was born at Bressanone in the Italian South Tyrol, and raised secretly by peasants. But Pound did not completely abandon his wife, and she bore him a son, Omar, the following year. There followed a reasonably amicable *ménage à trois*, with the three living between Paris and Italy. Pound dividing his time between the two women. Olga and Pound lived modestly in a house in Venice, which she had persuaded her father to buy (fortunately before he lost all his money in the Wall Street crash). Olga's life was from this point almost entirely subordinated to the demands of living with Pound, and her career as a performer never really recovered.

Instead, she taught in a conservatory in Sienna, and in 1936 began her championing of Vivaldi, after she had unearthed 25 volumes of his music which had not been heard for centuries in Turin. She formed a Vivaldi Society in Venice, and became involved in the promotion of this then seldom-played composer in numerous ways. In 1939 she published a comprehensive catalogue of his works.

Olga met Mussolini, whom Pound greatly admired, in 1928. She accompanied an American friend who was giving the Duce violin les-

sons, and noted that he "played well for an amateur". During the war, Olga Rudge stayed in Italy, teaching at a state school in Rapallo, even though American nationals had been ordered home. Dorothy came to live with her, and the hitherto relatively cordial relationship between the two was put under immense strain. Pound was trapped between two women, neither of whom, he wryly observed, could cook.

After his infamous broadcasts in support of the Fascists from Rome, Pound was seized in 1945 by Italian partisans who handed him over to the Americans. He was then sent home. To Olga it was a great disappointment that he never

Pound's broadcasts, and neatly avoided dealing with his more blatant anti-Semitic rantings.

When Pound was released from St Elizabeth's in 1958, he walked out on the arms of four women: Dorothy, Olga, Mary (his daughter) and a woman called Marcella Spann, to whom he later proposed. Dorothy, however, would not hear of a divorce and she remained his legal wife. He returned to an uneasy truce, dividing time between Dorothy and Olga at first. But by 1962 he had settled permanently with his beloved Olga, and he remained with her until his death in 1972 at the age of 87 (Dorothy died the following year). Local shopkeepers in Venice referred to Olga thereafter as "the poet's widow".

Their routine during those ten years was happy and domesticated. They would eat lunch outdoors in sunny weather, and stroll along the Grand Canal in the afternoon. Hordes of Pound "scholars" — many of whom, Olga quickly divined, had never read his work — would visit their home from curiosity. She protected him from these callers with the same crisp efficiency that she later repulsed bogus biographers: "They ring my bell and announce they are writing books that will tell both sides". Both sides? What do they think we are? Ezra Pound is no pancake."

Olga Rudge spent the last two decades alone, sorting through Pound's papers, and helping with genetic research inquiries. Finally she lived with her daughter — by whom she is survived, and who through marriage had become Princess Mary de Rachewitz — at her daughter's castle near Merano in northern Italy.

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ON THIS DAY

FORTHCOMING MARRIAGES AND MARRIAGES ETC

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THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

THURSDAY MARCH 21 1996

New price cap will see BT bills fall by £20

By ERIC REGULY

BT customers will see their phone bills fall from an average of £50 a quarter to about £30 over the next five years under new price-cap proposals published yesterday by Ofel, the telecommunications regulator.

BT said that it was "disappointed" by the proposed controls because they are tighter than it had expected. If BT rejects them, Ofel will automatically seek a Monopolies and Mergers Commission inquiry. With BT and Ofel already at loggerheads over other issues, such as policing anti-competitive practices, a monopolies referral now seems all but certain.

BT shares fell 7p to 344½p as investors weighed up the prospect of continued tight controls. Ofel said the new price regime would remove some £1.5 billion a year in "super-normal" operating profits from the company's regulated business.

Don Cruickshank, Ofel's Director-General, proposed that BT's retail prices decline by between 5

per cent and 9 per cent, less the inflation rate, between mid-1997, when the current cap expires, and 2001. The proposals are essentially unchanged from the current cap of 7½ per cent less the inflation rate.

He also proposed the introduction of a wholesale or "network" price cap, which would reduce prices such as interconnection charges by 3 to 6 per cent a year. The cable-telephony companies applauded the proposal because all their calls have to pass through BT's network.

Retail price caps have been in place since BT was privatised in 1986 and have shaved billions of pounds off the country's phone bills. BT's prices for national and international calls are now among the lowest in the world, although local call prices are nowhere near the cheapest.

Mr Cruickshank said that the price cap could not be eliminated,



Danny Jennings, head of BT's card services, with the new chargecards

Pledge by Labour on late payment

By PHILIP BASSETT
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

TONY BLAIR, proclaiming new Labour as the "party of small business", said yesterday a future Labour government will legislate on late payment of debt.

His promise, which came as Brussels agreed a new package of measures to help small firms across Europe, prompted the UK Government to announce it is to consult small firms on a statutory requirement on companies to disclose their performance on late payment.

Mr Blair's commitment to small firms, unveiled at an Industry Forum in London as part of Labour's document *The Growth Agenda*, is a key part of measures aimed at helping small companies.

These measures would include a statutory right to interest on late payment, a requirement on companies to publish their payment practices, and a commitment by the Government and public agencies to pay their bills within 30 days.

Mr Blair's move prompted the Government to bring forward its own announcement. Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, said that the Government will now consult on the idea that companies should detail in their annual reports their late payment performance and policies. If necessary, the Government would then legislate on the issue.

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High street sales reverse fall

By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH retail sales increased by 0.6 per cent in February, exactly reversing the fall recorded in January, according to the Central Statistical Office.

Figures for activity on the high street have been particularly erratic in recent months but, overall, City economists concluded that sales are on a modest upward trend. The annual rate of increase fell to 1.9 per cent from 2.2 per cent in January, but this was because of a particularly strong trading performance in February last year.

Simon Briscoe, of Nikko Europe, said sales were not yet strong enough to prevent another base rate cut, but that the Chancellor's forecast of 3.5 per cent consumer demand growth this year looks increasingly plausible.

The modestly improving consumer picture was backed by a survey yesterday for the European Commission which showed that consumer confidence

pointed to retail price trends. The minutes of the February 7 monetary meeting showed the Chancellor and Governor of the Bank of England in agreement on keeping rates unchanged. The next month they agreed on a ¼-point cut. The Governor expressed some concern yesterday about a rise in the retail sales deflator, which has proved a good

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Britannic to cover critical illness

BY MARIANNE CURPHEN

BRITANNIC Assurance, which stopped selling motor policies in January because of crippling competition from direct writers, is to launch its first critical illness product.

Brian Shaw, general manager and actuary, said the policies would be marketed to new customers and to the 940,000 households countrywide already on its books, and would be aimed at the "upper end" of its client list. Other insurers are looking at healthcare and illness products amid falling life and pensions sales.

Britannic sells insurance door-to-door and does not have a direct telephone operation, although after a review of operations the company is to increase its investment in new technology and has not ruled out job cuts.

The shares fell 3p to 779p yesterday after the company was unable to indicate whether the Department of Trade and Industry will allow it to reallocate orphan assets to shareholders. Analysts estimate these assets range between £700 million and £1.4 billion.

Unveiling operating profit before tax of £50.6 million for the year to 1995, up 7.1 per cent on the 1994 restated figure of £47.3 million, Mr Shaw said that new life and pensions business written in 1995 was lower than in the previous year.

However, there was an improving trend in the second half of 1995, which continued into 1996. Total life and pensions premiums for the year fell by 4.6 per cent to £361.5 million.

Britannic, which had 26,000 motor policies when it decided to stop writing new business, will continue to cover policyholders until renewal.

Earnings per share rose to 25.17p (1994: 10.34p) and the proposed final dividend is 10.8p per share net, giving a total for the year of 15.4p, a rise of 10 per cent.



Dennis Webb, right, with Andrew Calvert, Beazer financial director, is cautiously optimistic despite a fall in profits

Blair hails Labour as the party for small business

BY PHILIP BASSETT
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

LABOUR yesterday declared itself to be the "party for small business" as it set out a new package of proposals aimed at giving assistance to small firms by a Labour government.

In addition to the declaration by Tony Blair, the Labour leader, of his party's intention to legislate on late payment of debt, senior Labour figures set out a series of measures aimed at the small business sector.

Andrew Smith, the Shadow

Treasurer Secretary, said Labour's commitment to working with small firms now marked out "new Labour as the party of small business". He told a conference on small business: "Small firms will benefit especially from Labour's determination to secure sustainable expansion with a medium-term growth strategy, aimed at raising the trend rate of growth with low inflation."

At a conference organised by the Industry Forum, the body set up by Labour to

provide links between Labour and business, Mr Smith said Labour would act to close the investment gap, modernising and simplifying the tax system, tackling tax abuse and taking steps to encourage long-term investment and its availability to small business. The Forum published yesterday a policy document that sets out Labour's proposals on small business.

He said that every economic and fiscal proposal brought forward by Labour "will be examined for what it can do to

nurture small business success".

Labour unveiled a pilot site on the Internet, called the Enterprise Zone, aimed at providing easy access for small business to a range of information - an idea mentioned by ministers last week at their own small business conference as an objective.

Clear interest in Labour's plans for small business was indicated by the wealth of businesses, industry organisations and others speaking at yesterday's conference.

Stan Mendham, chief executive of the Forum of Private Business, said that the conference showed clearly that Labour had "come a long way" in its relationship with business and small firms in particular. He said that if Labour wanted to be the "party of small business", "they will have to measure accurately what we need, and then they will have to meet those needs. If they don't, the economy will not grow."

Ron Taylor, director-general of the British Chambers of Commerce, urged Labour to build on present policy: "We are looking for stability and consistency in government policy-making so we can plan forward with confidence."

Stephen Alambritis, from the Federation of Small Business, said that large firms were still cutting jobs, whereas small firms could repeat their 2.5 million job growth over the past 20 years. Mr Blair will address the federation's annual conference next week.

Pennington, page 27

Brussels plan to boost small firms

BRUSSELS announced a new programme of help for small businesses across Europe yesterday in a renewed attempt to promote economic and employment growth (Philip Bassett writes).

European Commissioners meeting in Brussels agreed a new, four-year, 180 million Ecu package of measures,

aimed at improving the competitiveness and impact of small firms. The package, called the third multi-annual programme for SMEs, reflects a greater realisation in Brussels of the importance of the small firms sector, and is part of the European Confidence Pact on Employment being proposed by Jacques Santer,

President of the Commission, to promote job growth. Christos Papoutsis, the EU commissioner who has responsibility for enterprise policy, said yesterday that the SME sector accounted for 99 per cent of all European firms, covering two thirds of total employment and 65 per cent of all EU business turnover.

The new programme, which will now go before the EU's council of industry ministers, focuses on encouraging an economic environment favourable to small firms, improving small firms' competitiveness in the single market, and improving consultation and policy development with small firms.

FEDERAL mediators are on standby to help General Motors and union negotiators who have been unable to end a two-week-old strike that has left 175,000 workers idle. The strike began on March 5 at two plants in Dayton, Ohio, by about 3,000 employees of Delphi Chassis, a GM supplier of brake parts. The dispute was started by union fears that GM would start to provide more brake production business to outside companies. The stoppage has now shut down 26 of GM's 29 North American vehicle assembly plants.

Mediators stand by

The occasions are the two most important in the retailer's calendar, after Christmas. "Sales were particularly good. They were the best we have had," said Mr Lewin.

He made his remarks as he revealed a 23 per cent leap in pre-tax profit from £2.6 million to £3.2 million on sales ahead 30 per cent at £109.8 million in the year to 1995. Like-for-like sales rose 4.7 per cent, excluding the Hall of Cards stores acquired in 1994.

During the year the company acquired 112 stores from Carlton Cards, helping to lift the total number of shops from 362 to 486.

Mr Lewin said the acquired stores contributed to profits,

but margins suffered because of the discounting of acquired lines of stock that the group does not want to trade.

The final dividend of 3.35p

makes a total for the year of 5.1p, up 8.3 per cent. Due on May 28, it is being paid out of earnings per share of 10.23p, up 17.8 per cent.

Investigators from Imro, the watchdog for fund managers, were yesterday still studying allegations that Jupiter Tyndall, the fund management group bought by the German Commerzbank last year for £169 million, had breached City rules relating to staff bonus payments and the handling of client assets. Jupiter Tyndall, which has £4 billion under management in a mixture of unit and investment trusts as well as pension funds, denies any wrong doing.

SiR plans to join AIM

SYSTEMS INTEGRATED RESEARCH (SiR), which designs, produces and supplies multi-media educational software, plans to join the Alternative Investment Market next week. A placing by Durlacher of up to 3.7 million shares, at 115p each, is expected to raise about £3 million for the company, capitalising it at about £15.4 million. SiR expects to make a small profit in the current year to May and hopes to make a pre-tax profit of about £500,000 in the following year to May 1997, on turnover of £3.5 million.

OGC achieves 10% rise

OGC INTERNATIONAL, the oil and gas industry construction company, achieved a 10 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £14.2 million last year despite a 14 per cent decline in turnover to £232.9 million. Earnings increased to 14.79p a share from 13.5p and the total dividend rises to 6.3p a share from 5.75p, with a 4.3p final. The Aberdeen group completed a redevelopment of Shell's Brent 8 platform and BP's Point of Ayr gas processing terminal in North Wales in 1995. Richard Wilson, chairman, said the group expected to see further progress this year.

Jupiter bonuses study

INVESTIGATORS from Imro, the watchdog for fund managers, were yesterday still studying allegations that Jupiter Tyndall, the fund management group bought by the German Commerzbank last year for £169 million, had breached City rules relating to staff bonus payments and the handling of client assets. Jupiter Tyndall, which has £4 billion under management in a mixture of unit and investment trusts as well as pension funds, denies any wrong doing.

Store considers response to takeover bid

Panther pounces on Elys

BY MARTIN BARROW

ONE of the睡ier corners of the Stock Exchange was rudely awakened by a takeover bid yesterday.

Elys (Wimbledon), the department store, was last night considering its response to a near-£7 million bid by Panther Securities, the investment vehicle of Andrew Perloff, the entrepreneur.

Elys has remained largely unchanged as a one-store business for a generation, despite operating two Beds for Less discount stores in Surrey.

Shareholders have seen their shares significantly underperform the stock market for as long as anyone cares

to remember. Panther Securities emerged as a potential predator when it acquired a 29.9 per cent interest formerly held by Boots the Chemist in May. It proposes to appoint to the Elys board Manny Silverman, the former apparel tailor who rose to become chief executive of Moss Bros Group for seven years until 1987.

The structure of the Panther offer is highly unusual and required the approval of the Takeover Panel before being submitted to shareholders.

There is a two-tier cash offer, consisting of 750p a share in cash for up to one out

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TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia \$	2.08	1.92
Austria Sch	18.92	15.42
Belgium Fr	49.46	45.16
Canada \$	2.191	2.031
Denmark Kr	0.742	0.687
Finland Mkk	5.25	4.55
France Fr	7.81	7.49
Germany Dm	2.42	2.21
Greece Dr	0.943	0.865
Hong Kong \$	12.50	11.50
Ireland Pt	5.1300	4.4600
Italy Lir	20.00	18.00
Japan Yen	177.00	161.50
Malta	0.592	0.537
Netherlands Gld	2.68	2.454
New Zealand \$	2.38	2.17
Norway Kr	1.43	1.30
Portugal Esc	245.00	225.00
S Africa Rr	6.55	5.75
Spain Pts	187.00	184.00
Sweden Kr	10.79	9.65
Switzerland Fr	1.58	1.78
Turkey Lira	111.025	103.005
USA \$	1.638	1.500

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

Regulator rings changes at telecoms giant Small business is a big issue The acceptable face of accounting

THE END IS RIGH for the BT we know — and thanks to the advertisements — love. Don Cruickshank, the telecommunications regulator, has virtually obliged BT to buy Cable and Wireless or split itself. British Gas-style, into a network company and a services company. It cannot continue unchanged and making £3 billion a year because Mr Cruickshank has made it clear that it will get few breaks on the regulatory front before the next century.

Sooner or later, BT should come to the conclusion that it is the quarry of a single-minded hunter with time to spare. To survive, and to serve its shareholders conscientiously, it must reduce the importance of its network or get rid of it entirely.

BT's sin is that it still dominates every sector of the telecoms market a dozen years after it theoretically lost its monopoly. As a result, Mr Cruickshank has proposed an extension of the price cap. This ensures currently that prices to customers fall by 7½ per cent a year in real terms. This will be renewed in mid-1997 at a figure somewhere between RPI-5 per cent to RPI-9 per cent. No change, in other words, though a few services and market segments may qualify for an exemption on the basis that enough competition has developed in those areas to ensure that prices will not rise.

Mr Cruickshank's latest proposals make him look a consumer champion. Under his predecessors, prices have already come down in real terms year after year, shaving billions off phone bills. But he could now be driving down BT's return on capital to the point where it could hurt the company and will prevent any real competition.

A glance at the share price indicates all too clearly that the market suspects he is bent on doing so. Since privatisation, BT shares have underperformed the FT-SE 100 index by about 35 per cent. Virtually no City analyst has listed the stock as a "buy" for the past two years, and investors' opinions are unlikely to change now. Not a good return for Sir. What he gains on his phone bills he has lost on his shares.

BT will be hard pressed to finance these continued price cuts. With its redundancy programme largely completed, it is hard to see where efficiency savings on this scale will continue to flow from.

BT has little room to negotiate with the regulator. Unless it wants to trigger a monopolies

inquiry, *a la* British Gas, it will have to accept a new price cap that, in all probability, will last until 2001. To reduce its exposure to regulated returns, it will have to expand its foreign presence. Doing so through the purchase of C&W has now become even more compelling. Or BT can give up and liberate itself from the domestic network.

Mr Cruickshank seems determined to govern BT's network as though it were some social service rather than a fast-changing business. It seems BT might as well cut it adrift and divert its cash flow elsewhere while it still can.

Early late announcement

NOT SINCE THE CHANCELLOR made his ill-fated early morning announcement about share options on the day the Greenbury report was published has the Government made a move as early in the day as Ian Lang's 7am announcement on consulting on late payment.

PENNINGTON



It is a measure of the political heat that this issue, and the question of small business in general, is now producing the President of the Board of Trade felt impelled to do so. Just as Kenneth Clarke's move, which he subsequently had to withdraw, was a pre-emptive panic about boardroom pay, so Mr Lang's dawn declaration was intended to upset Labour leader Tony Blair's pledge on late payment, planned for a few hours later.

Unfortunately for small business, both moves were largely bogus. Although Mr Blair's statement is the first time that as party leader has given his personal endorsement to legislation on late payment, such a

commitment has been Labour Party policy for some years.

The Government's early morning move is, if anything, even more questionable. Last week John Major said he personally favoured requiring companies to disclose their payment practices, as well as their payment policy. This they are already legally required to do. Bizarrely, Mr Lang and other ministers blithely went on to explain that the issue was very complicated, and needed considering. Now it will be legal regulations by the autumn — but again, only if appropriate.

What is significant, though, is the sharply different responses to Mr Blair's proposal from the CBI and the small business bodies.

Small businesses also differ on the value of statutory rights on late payment, with some arguing the practical reality of dealing with larger companies is rather different to the theory of legislative provision.

What is clear is that without a strong and growing small business sector, there will be little economic and employment

growth, on which electoral prospects rest. Despite the pitfalls, small business support is still a political prize worth pursuing.

Take care who you associate with

THE ACCOUNTING STANDARDS BOARD cannot be accused of being inflexible in its latest exposure draft. Earlier proposals to clamp down on abuse of accounting for associate companies and joint ventures have been eased after hurt responses. Sir David Tweedie's reappointment to another term as chairman has, it seems, made him more relaxed, not magisterial.

Most of the changes address practical points, rather than mere general moans. Hence, joint ventures are defined separately, rather than being lumped in with associates. This will accommodate strange Euro and other semi-corporate creatures such as Airbus that essentially act as umbrellas under which individual companies ply their own trades co-operatively. But the draft rules, if turned into a

PRaise be damned THE ghost of Michael Lawrence haunted the Treasury Select Committee last night as its chairman at the Stock Exchange and market makers damned him with the faint praise that the City is so good at. The former Exchange chief was "liked as a man", "a flawed genius" and "a reformer". They were also smart enough to gag Lawrence with his pay-off the night before, or we might have heard more robust phrases.

Harrisons & Crosfield to raise £30m in float

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

HARRISONS & CROSFIELD, the chemicals, timber and foods company, said yesterday that it was aiming to raise £30 million by floating off its remaining plantation interests on the Sydney Stock Exchange.

Harrisons jointly owns the New Britain Palm Oil plantation with the Papua New Guinea Government. Last year the company's 54 per cent stake in the plantation yielded record profits of £26.7 million as the price of palm oil touched an all-time high.

The announcement came as Harrisons revealed a 20 per cent increase in full-year operating profits to £130 million before exceptional items. But pre-tax profits at £120 million were well below last year's

level of £237 million, which included about £140 million in profits from disposals. Bill Turcan, chief executive, said that the company expected a slow start from the timber and chemicals division, while profits from the plantation division would return to more normal levels as the prices fell.

Mr Turcan added that the company expected to spend up to £300 million on acquisitions this year, concentrating on purchases to fit in with the pigment and timber and building businesses. Mr Turcan said the action taken should yield cost savings of about £7 million this year, but the company remained cautious over prospects for the division, warning that it was yet to see a major recovery in demand.

A strong performance from the chrome business helped the chemicals and industrial division to increase profits by 26 per cent to £50 million. But the pigment division, which supplies paint companies, suffered from the weak construction

market and destocking in the US.

The food and agricultural division also raised profits by a third to £31.6 million, with a good showing from the meat and pig businesses. The pet food business performed well, although the animal feed businesses suffered from rising raw material costs and a smaller national pig herd. But the company predicted an improving performance from the food division this year, boosted by continued growth in the meat market.

The total dividend was held at 9p with a final dividend of 5.4p, payable on July 1. Shares in the company fell 4p to close at 167p.

Tempus, page 28

Trinity makes progress

TRINITY INTERNATIONAL HOLDINGS, the newspaper publisher, said that integration of the UK regional newspapers of Thomson Corporation, acquired for £285 million last year, was progressing well (Martin Barrow writes).

The purchase, which transformed Trinity into the biggest regional newspaper company in Britain, was completed on January 8 and had no impact on financial results for 1995. But Philip Graf, chief executive, said the performance of the Thomson newspapers in Belfast, Newcastle, Teesside and Chester had been encouraging.

Trinity pre-tax profits were £7.5 million (£22.9 million) with earnings of 21.5p, against an adjusted 21.5p. The dividend rises to 10.7p (9.7p) with a 7.4p final.

Marley begins the move out of vehicle products

BY CARL MORTISHED

MARLEY, the building products group, is selling part of its automotive products business after another difficult year in which setbacks in all its divisions left pre-tax profits for 1995 down 21 per cent to £46.3 million. Excluding exceptional items, profits fell from £47.8 million to £43.6 million and the full year dividend is maintained at 4.7p.

Marley is selling part of the automotive components division to Magna International, of Canada, for £53.2 million and is in talks to sell its share in the Davidson Marley joint venture, which makes up the rest of its automotive business.

Profits in the automotive business, which makes interior trim and instrument panels, fell from £5.5 million to £2.8 million last year over difficult trading in Germany and start-up costs. David



Trapnell: strong orders

Trapnell, Marley's chief executive, said the business needed to invest heavily to meet the demands of car manufacturers who were seeking to consolidate their supply chains.

"In the next few years it would be competing with building products for capital," he said. After the sale,

Tempus, page 28

Flextech completes Family deal

BY ERIC REGULY

FLEXTECH, the cable and satellite programming group, announced a flurry of deals, including the purchase of the Family Channel and a controlling stake in the "infomercial" business of the Home Shopping Network.

Flextech, which is half owned by Telecommunications Inc, America's largest cable company, has agreed to buy the 61 per cent of the Family Channel in Britain that it does not already own, from International Family Entertainment Inc. It is paying a total of £30.5 million, made up of £3 million in cash and 5.8 million new shares issued at 475p apiece. Flextech shares closed unchanged at 520p.

A new Flextech subsidiary will have a 79 per cent interest in the British infomercial division of the Home Shopping Network as a "further expansion of Flextech's business into electronic retailing".

Flextech reported a pre-tax profit of £16.4 million in the year to December 31, against a loss of £18.5 million in 1994, on turnover that rose 51 per cent to £34 million. The profit figure was boosted by a £3.2 million gain on the sale of assets. Earnings per share were 6.32p against a loss of 21.53p. The operating loss rose from £11.1 million to £13 million, partly because of start-up costs of new channels. No dividends are paid.

Tempus, page 28

Kwik-Fit plans to grow as profits reach a high

DES JENSON

BY SARAH BAGNALL



Tom Farmer says Kwik-Fit will get 100 new outlets

KWIK-FIT, the chain of car repair centres, plans to open a further 100 outlets and more than double the number of mobile tyre-fitting vehicles during the current year.

The company currently operates through 787 specialist fitting centres and 100 fully equipped mobile tyre-fitting vehicles on the road.

The news comes as Tom Farmer, the chairman, disclosed that Kwik-Fit had produced record profits and sales in the year ending February 29.

Pre-tax profit rose 24 per cent from £29.3 million to £36.3 million on sales ahead 23 per cent at £365.4 million. Mr Farmer said: "This has been a year of outstanding performance. This was a year when things began to fall into place."

He added that he expected 100 more Kwik-Fit centres would be opened this year, through a combination of acquisitions and organic growth, while the number of mobile units would be increased from 100 to 250 and the service extended to specific sectors of the private motorist.

The final dividend of 3.1p makes a total for the year of 5p, up from 4.4p last time. The dividend, due May 10, is paid out of earnings of 14.7p a share, compared with 11.9p.

The shares rose 3.1p to 202p.

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Weir engineers a sharp rise

BY MARTIN BARROW

SHARES IN WEIR GROUP, the engineering products and services group based in Scotland, rose 23p to 258p yesterday after the company reported a sharp rise in profits in 1995 and a record order book.

Pre-tax profits were £45.5 million last year, which compared with reported profits of £30.5 million in 1994 when the company charged £7.8 million against reorganisation costs. At the operating level profit advanced to £42.09 million from £32.4 million.

Net order input totalled £639 million, which compared with £462 million in the previous year, even though no major desalination contract was booked. The largest single order taken was just £20 million. The final quarter showed a

particularly strong order intake. Turnover of £622 million rose from £476 million in the previous 12 months. The Americans now comprise Weir's single largest market.

Earnings were 16.6p a share, rising from 13p previously and from 16.1p if exceptional items are excluded. The total dividend is increased to 7.5p a share from 6.96, with a final 5.5p payable on June 14.

Weir ended the year with net debt of £7.7 million, which represents gearing of just 5 per cent. The company expects to use its balance-sheet strength to continue a series of relatively modest acquisitions, with the aim of strengthening its core businesses.

STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

London stays in step with downbeat Wall Street

THE London stock market continues to dance to Wall Street's tune. Share prices in the Square Mile struggled to make headway, before closing with modest losses, mainly reflecting an opening fall of 45 points in the Dow Jones industrial average. By contrast, government securities clawed back early losses to finish with some impressive gains.

The FTSE 100 index was down almost 20 points in early trading, taking its lead from the overnight setback on Wall Street. Investors' anxiously awaited the latest retail sales figures. These provided further evidence of a revival in the high street, effectively scuppering remaining hopes of another cut in interest rates.

In the event, the index finished 7.6 lower at 3,685.4 in thin trading that saw 703 million shares change hands.

Early attention focused on BT, with the price falling 7.2p to 344.2p as investors switched into rival Cable and Wireless, up 8p at 491p. There has been intense speculation in recent weeks about a possible bid by BT for C&W. BT's case will not have been helped by the new pricing formula issued yesterday by Oftel, the industry regulator. Under Oftel's proposals, telephone bills may fall by as much as 9 per cent and could result in the average bill being slashed by at least £50 a time. BT was clearly unimpressed and said further job cuts may have to go.

An industry expert claimed last night that BT could be worth up to £37 billion if it were broken up into six separate divisions. It is currently capitalised at £22 billion.

Johnson Matthey, the precious metals group, stood out with a rise of 9p at 81p. Credit Lyonnais Laing, the broker, is telling clients that recent weakness in the shares presents a buying opportunity.

There was a big put-through recorded in shares of Royal Bank of Scotland just before the official close of business. A line of about 3 million shares was placed at 533.5p before being sold on at 538p. The price closed 8p off at 537p.

The biggest fall on the day was recorded in Telspec, down 117p at 693p, after full-year figures failed to live up to expectations. The communications specialist was brought to market in October 1994 by Credit Lyonnais Laing and has seen its shares reach £10.45.



Don Lewin's Clinton Cards was steady despite higher profits

Costs are still being cut at Harrison & Crosfield, but it does not appear to be benefiting profits which took a nose dive last year. At the operating level, profits were up, but at the pre-tax level, they were down from £236.7 million to £19.6 million. The shares responded with a fall of 3p to 167p.

Marley, the firm at 129p,

Another company suffering the slump in the building industry last year was Beazer Homes, 2p firmer at 175p. Pre-tax profits were down £4 million at £18.5 million as the number of new completions fell 581 to 2,001. The company was determined to protect margins at the expense of volumes and said it had seen a modest rise in demand to

shares began upgrading their profit forecasts for the current year. Weir said it had scope to make some substantial acquisitions.

Hanson appears to have placed most of its holding in Wassall, the fast-growing industrial conglomerate. Brokers reported a put-through of 4.28 million shares at 276p. About 3.5 million of them were later sold on at 277p. ABN Amro Hoare Govett, Hanson's own broker, is believed to have transacted the business. It coincided with full-year figures from Wassall, up 10p to 267p, showing pre-tax profits last year more than doubling to £57.5 million.

Better than expected full-year figures Kwik Fit Holdings, the brakes and exhausts specialists, lifted the shares 3.2p to 202p. A flat performance last year left Bertram Matthews, the turkey producer, 3p easier at 95p, while Clinton Cards was unchanged at 153p after raising profits last year from £2.2 million to £3.2 million.

CRH, the Irish aggregates group, is splashing out \$87 million to acquire the Jack B Parsons Companies, the Utah aggregates business. CRH finished 4p better at 574p.

Shares of Syntex Engineering were suspended at 61p as it announced plans to hit the acquisition trail. It is acquiring Zlin, of Tewkesbury, the supplier of printed circuit boards for £1.5 million.

Shares of Torex HIRE returned from suspension 9p higher at 41p after the completion of an acquisition.

GILT-EDGED: Prices opened lower, reflecting stronger than expected German money supply figures.

In the future pit the June series of the long gilt closed 1.2% higher at £915.00 as turnover rose sharply with a total of 65,500 contracts.

Marley's decision to ditch its automotive division looks sensible. Were it to have struggled on Marley would have gradually been edged out of the market by bigger rivals. A business producing plastic trim for motor cars makes little sense in a building products group. Moreover, in a world where car manufacturers are seeking to single-source components on a worldwide basis, Marley's future as a second-line supplier looks grim.

Unfortunately, having rid itself of a business with poor prospects, Marley's newest investment performed even less well last year. Syroco, which makes plastic garden furniture, generated £400,000 over nine months, an alarming result when compared with the purchase price of £100 million. Accord-

Elys (Wimbledon), the stores group, is a good example of why there is scope for an order-driven trading system being introduced. It found itself on the receiving end of a 750p offer from Panther Securities, but an absence of competitive market-making in the shares meant they finished unchanged at 550p.

also suffered a tough time last year with pre-tax profits down from an unadjusted £5.7 million to £4.6 million. Trading conditions were described as tough, with Sir George Russell claiming that prospects for the current year depended on the levels of activity in the housing and refurbishment markets in both Britain and the US. The group has sold its automotive arm for £5.5 million.

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ing to Marley, everything conspired against Syroco: a huge increase in plastic resin prices, which make up half the product's cost, could not be passed on to buyers, while poor weather in the US depressed demand for sun loungers.

Marley has landed itself with another non-core business and one with low qual-

ity earnings. Moulded plastic furniture is a sector with few barriers to entry, leaving it extremely unlikely that Marley will earn anything like a 15 per cent return on investment. That suggests that investors are unlikely to see much return either. Even if building products see a recovery, there are better shares to buy.

BT: SHARES SLIDE AS INVESTORS SWITCH INTO CABLE AND WIRELESS

Source: Datastream

Share price

Closing Prices Page 33

Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar

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**THE
TIMES**
**CITY
DIARY**

**Scott faces
the chop**

THE Labour-run Edinburgh Council confirmed yesterday it is exploring the possibility of selling the famous Sir Walter Scott monument on Princes Street — not least because an estimate for complete renovation has been put at more than £2.5 million.

Sponsorship is one option but the initial reaction from Scottish companies was mixed. There was a thumbs down from Baxter's and a lukewarm response from the department store Jenners, which uses the monument in its promotional material. But Macsween's, Edinburgh's renowned manufacturer of haggis, was more positive. "Perhaps a fund-raising dinner would be an idea," said marketing director Jo Macsween. "We'd be happy to provide free haggis."

Nuclear fall-out

KWIK-FIT, Europe's largest independent automotive parts repair and replacement specialist, came swiftly to the rescue after it received a desperate call from the staff of a nuclear submarine based in Plymouth docks earlier this year. The submarine, declared unfit to continue on its tour of duty, because mariners kept falling out of their bunks in rough seas, put in an urgent request for 66 car safety belts.

Dynamic duo

BOOTIFUL Bernard Matthews is looking forward to spending Easter in his holiday house near St Tropez. Along with a leg of lamb, the birdman of Norfolk is packing Tom Pockock's biography of Horatio Nelson. "There are only two famous persons in Norfolk — and I'm one of them," he chuckles.



"Sell BT — buy Ofcom"

EMU fan
When Carraud Metal Box was taken over by Crown Cork & Seal, the American firm, last month to become the world's largest packing company, some investors in the company sold their shares. They had to wait up to three weeks for the cash. Cheques made out in francs seemed to travel around Europe before being paid. Roll on the single currency said one shareholder who received his cheque yesterday and tried to work out what he had lost in interest and exchange rates.

Double trouble

LLOYD'S names suffered another blow yesterday. A company specialising in financial planning has put a surcharge on the hapless names. Lyndon Healthcare, a service provided by Lyndon Investments, a wholly owned subsidiary of the West Country chartered accountant Robson Taylor, is charging an extra £40 a month for its subscription-based service "because of the complexity of their personal affairs".

THE largest ever trade mission to Pakistan next week could be accused of poppadoms to Lahore. Among the 65 companies taking part on the trip, which is to be led by Trade Minister Lord Fraser, is Derby-based Khan Foods, the manufacturers of "authentic" Indian nosh.

ECONOMIC VIEW BY ANATOLE KALETSKY



ANATOLE KALETSKY

American capitalism has defeated 'peasants' revolt

**US remained
a land of
opportunity
even during
the decades
of misery**

The "peasants' revolt" against America's capitalist values seems to have fizzled out almost before it started. Perhaps Pat Buchanan, the far-right presidential candidate who likened his supporters to "peasants with pitchforks" descending upon the overpaid "corporate job-killers" should have read up in his history books about the fate of Wat Tyler at Smithfield.

Be that as it may, after all the alarms about ungovernability and the breakdown of the capitalist ideological consensus, America is now almost certain to be presented with an eminently civilised choice between two of the most centrist presidential candidates ever selected by the Republican and Democratic parties. It is perhaps no coincidence that Wall Street has reverted to its tedious habit of hitting a new all-time high every other day.

The collapse of the "Buchanan factor" raises fascinating questions for politicians and economists, as well as stock-market investors. Is it possible, for example, that commentators have exaggerated America's crisis of confidence and the pain of the "new insecurity" created by corporate restructuring and free trade? Is it conceivable that American workers are not as angry about falling industrial wages and growing income inequality as everyone had assumed? Could it be that company profits will go on growing in relation to national income, as they have done with only brief cyclical interruptions since 1981?

These questions are of interest not only to Americans, but also to Europeans. Declining living standards, psychological insecurity and political disintegration are seen in Europe as the fatal flaws in America's remarkable record for creating jobs, or McJobs as European cynics prefer to call them. But if Americans are not really horrified by the state of their society — if, indeed, Americans are more optimistic about America than many Europeans are about Europe — then that deals with one of the main objections to the American economic model of flexible labour markets and active demand management to sustain full employment.

The question about the share of profit in national income may seem more narrowly financial but is also of huge political significance. If it is true — as many commentators, including Americans, believe — that the share of profits in national income has now hit an unsustainable cyclical peak, then the present rebound in the US economy will soon fizzle out in a struggle between labour and capital, a burst of inflation, a tightening of monetary policy and another recession. And if this happens in America, the rest of the world will almost certainly follow it.

Clearly it is impossible to answer such huge questions in a single article for, in fact, to answer them with confidence at all. But suspecting, as I long have, that the late 1990s are indeed quite like the 1950s, I will just make some observations that are frequently overlooked, especially in cynical Europe. The first two are obvious from the charts. Corporate profits have risen sharply since the 1982 recession which marked the climax of the worldwide economic

crisis of the 1970s, but profits are still quite moderate by the standards of the pre-1970 "golden age". In fact, in the fourth quarter of 1995, the national accounts measure of corporate profits as a share of GDP was very close to the 1960-95 average (represented as 100 in the chart). Even assuming that profits grew by a further 15 to 20 per cent this year, America's profit share would be in the lower half of the range that prevailed in the 1960s. There seems no reason to suppose that this profit share of between 9 and 10 per cent of GDP will be unsustainable.

Looking at the lower chart suggests some reasons for such optimism. While it is true that

**The next
recession
may prove
an unusually
mild one**

the share of wages and salaries in US national income has fallen sharply since 1970, there are several consolations for American workers.

First there is the widening gap between the two lines in this chart. The lower line, which represents cash wages and salaries has been falling. But the upper line, which takes into account non-cash compensation, including pension contributions and health insurance costs, has remained fairly stable since the late 1960s and is still somewhat higher than it was until 1966. Much of the apparent fall in US wages simply reflects the sharp rise in non-wage employment costs, above all on health care.

Health spending now absorbs 13 per cent of Ameri-

ca's GDP and more than a third of this is financed by employers' insurance payments. To a large extent, therefore, the disappointing growth in American workers' living standards can be blamed simply on the spiralling cost of America's astonishingly inefficient insurance-based private health system (which some Tories are so anxious to imitate). If America had a national health service as efficient as Britain's, its workers could have received 6 per cent more of GDP in wages — equivalent to a real pay increase of 13 per cent taking the wage share of GDP well above its 1970 peak.

The charts also show that the big decline in the wage share occurred after 1970 and was over by 1982. It is true, of course, that 28 million more Americans are working now than in the 1980s so that wages per worker have continued to lag behind the growth of GDP.

I do not believe for a moment in the monetarist or "classical" theory of the labour market, which insists that lower wages are a necessary and sufficient condition to restore full employment. But it is undeniable, simply as a matter of arithmetic, that if an economy creates jobs for growing numbers of relatively unskilled workers (including many millions of immigrants and women who were previously not in the labour market), then average real wages cannot grow as rapidly as GDP. This will be true particularly if the economic structure tries to preserve the shares of profits, rents, pensions and other forms of income.

This leads to a third consolation for American workers — and perhaps the most important reason why they are not as disgruntled as some of the crude statistics on real wages would imply. While average

real wages have indeed fallen slightly and the distribution of income has dramatically widened, these statistics do not accurately reflect what has happened to individual Americans. The poor may be getting poorer. A number of recent studies tracking the incomes of individual households show that most poor Americans move up the income distribution quite rapidly as soon as they find work. For example, a study recently published by the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas looked at American families who were among the poorest 20 per cent of the income distribution in 1971. It found that only 5.1 per cent of these people were still among the poorest 16 years later. In fact, two thirds of these people had graduated into the top half of income distribution by 1991.

America, it seems, remained a land of opportunity even during the miserable 1970s and 1980s. I suspect it could do a great deal better in the years ahead.

BUSINESS LETTERS

Simplification of law on small businesses is overdue

From Mr Des Keenan

Sir, It would be a pity if Mr Heseltine's excellent proposals regarding the simplification of law concerning small businesses were to be drowned by waves of synthetic outrage from interested parties.

A careful look at the accumulated "rights of labour" and the corresponding "duties of employers" is long overdue. About 1870 the traditional "master and servant" legislation with all its feudal overtones was swept away, and replaced by "employer and employee" legislation based on the simple contract.

But in fact the simple contract agreed by both parties, and terminable by both parties according to the terms of the contract, was not put in force or not for long. Shops Acts, Factory Acts, Workers' Compensation Acts and Employers' Liability Acts, Employment of Children Acts, Workers' Insurance Acts, PAYE Acts, and VAT Acts

were added (not to mention decisions of various European courts). Other workers' rights such as a "right" to redundancy compensation even for hourly workers and members of the Armed Services crept in.

It was of course always the aim of organised labour and its parliamentary representatives to screw as much cash and benefits from the bosses as possible. The employers too could offer inducements. We end up with a mass of legislation, and of customary practice.

Who should pay for toilets for the workers? Who for staff canteens? Who for protective gear? Who for wet-weather gear? Who for illness? Who for maternity? When should the state pay? Can an hourly-paid worker be unfairly dismissed? Should every employer have a little booklet stating the terms of contract and employment and be obliged to give a copy of this to every employee, even

to those sent round to gather the potatoes? Do these laws and practices create "rights"? Are these rights enforceable in the European Court of Human Rights? If they are only created by statute can they be removed by statute?

I am a self-employed person. I make an agreement with my customers/employers regarding price. I do the job; he pays me. If I don't like the job, I don't do it. I rather fancy this is closer to the idea of the legislators in the 1870s than what we ended up with now. Yours faithfully,
DES KEENAN,
129 Bluebird Walk,
Chalk Hill Road,
Wembley Park,
Middlesex.

Letters to the
Business section of The Times
can be sent
by fax on
0171-782 5112.

Yours faithfully,
R N BOWES,
Fairacre,
Eton,
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Surrey.

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Potent products that lost their pulling power

Martin Waller mourns the passing of Seventies items now branded as failures

It is a Saturday evening in the early 1970s. The scene is a teenage party. In the living room Slade bellow and couples twitch and grope. On the kitchen table are two bottles of Hirondelle, one almost empty, a Party Seven, opened, a Party Four, unopened, and a scattering of cans of Colt 45 and Double Diamond.

Now it is the 1990s. Many of the couples have teenage gropers of their own. Slade are somewhere on the revivial circuit, but none of the drinks has managed the same degree of longevity.

Hirondelle was a bland and blended wine, and Party Fours and Sevens were undistinguished gassy cans of bitter so named for the number of pints they contained. Double Diamond was a keg bitter, quite dreadful but still available in a few places. Colt 45 was probably some kind of beer, although it would have taken a forensic scientist to prove it.

There is nothing quite so nostalgic, or so dispiriting, as those products we knew from our youth and their associated catch-phrases and jingles, now gone the way of the hula hoop and the Rubik Cube.

Babysham's catch-phrase became its curse. Order it at the public bar and a wit would mimic "I'd la-a-ave a Babysham" in a false Essex Girl accent. The demise of the keg bitter, Red Barrel, was hastened by five minutes of well-aimed sadism from the Monty Python team — "... and their Watney's Red Barrel."

Paul Stobart at Interbrand, a specialist consultancy, thinks that properties such as Double Diamond may not be worthless. "There are a whole range of perceptions of Double Diamond — you can see the logo, you can still hear the jingle," he says. "It is about understanding the brand and how it ought to be positioned to its target market. Brands that try to be all things to everybody are hard to sustain."

On the Continent, wine drinking is falling in France and Italy, increasingly replaced by imported spirits. In France, Pernod is in decline; in Germany, schnapps is less favoured. Even in Russia the emerging prosperous classes are turning their backs on vodka — and Russian society once ran on vodka just as teenage parties were fuelled by Double Diamond.

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Strong rise in profits lifts shares in Wassall

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

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Turnround for Usborne

Usborne, the agricultural services group whose chairman is Lord Parkinson, has returned to profit.

The company earned £325,000 before tax in the half year to December 31, compared with losses of £438,000 previously. Earnings were 0.76p a share (1.97p loss). There is again no interim dividend.

Brandon advance

Brandon Hire, the tool hire company based in Bristol, lifted 1995 pre-tax profits to £1.5 million (£716,000). Acquisitions contributed £352,000 to total operating profits of £1.8 million. Adjusted earnings rose to 8p a share from 4.8p. The total dividend rises to 2.25p a share from 1.7p.

Beauford ahead

Beauford, the ceramics and engineering group, lifted pre-tax profits 30 per cent to £2 million in 1995 on turnover up 23 per cent to £41.1 million. Adjusted earnings were 3.87p (3.82p) a share. There is a final dividend of 0.4p (0.25p).

Tempus, page 28

proved performance from the two divisions.

Wassall was also optimistic about its 70 per cent interest in Singapore-listed Wassall Asia Pacific, which was acquired for £18.4 million in November, saying that it provided an exciting entry into the fast-growing Asian economies.

Underlying profit before tax and exceptional items, which excludes a £4.4 million profit from favourable copper prices, rose 42 per cent to £50.7 million. Overall, sales increased by more than 50 per cent to £970 million. The total dividend was raised by 34 per cent to 5.5p, with a final dividend of 3.95p (2.95p) payable on May 17.

Profits at DAP suffered from what the company described as the most difficult market conditions for five years, falling 23 per cent to £10.4 million. The closures division was also hit by a large increase in raw material prices and in spite of a growth in sales, profits were flat at £12.7 million.

Wassall finished the year with gearing at 29 per cent and interest cover at more than ten times. The company said that it would invest heavily this year and would also consider further acquisitions, but anticipated a reduction in borrowing over the year.

Wassall said that the profit increase at General Cable had resulted in the company meeting targets set when the subsidiary was bought in 1994, well ahead of schedule. Margins increased to 4.6 per cent while turnover grew by 90 per cent to £672 million, boosted by strong demand for low-voltage cable.

Wassall added that it was confident of making further progress this year through a series of long-term contracts for low-voltage wire and strong demand for datacoms wire.

The industrial and commercial division achieved a mixed performance, with profits growing from £0.9 million to £2.9 million, although the office furniture businesses suffered from a sluggish market.



Bernard Matthews said it is too early to judge if the price rise will hit sales

Matthews outlook uncertain

BERNARD MATTHEWS,

the poultry and meat processing group, yesterday revealed it had raised prices for the first time in several years to counter the impact of sharply higher raw material costs (Sarah Bagnall writes).

The inability to predict the success in recovering the in-

creased costs, together with start-up costs of two new factories, prompted the company to tell shareholders the outlook for the first half of 1996 was uncertain. Bernard Matthews, chairman, said:

"After Christmas we in-

creased prices by about 5 per cent overall. So far so good, but it is too early to say what the impact will be on sales."

The news came as the company revealed static pre-tax profits of £18.7 million on sales up 6.5 per cent at £302 million in the year to December 31. A 2p final makes a 3.39p total year's dividend, up from 3.14p, payable on May 3.

France and Germany". Blenheim's profits were struck after charging £1.8 million in restructuring costs.

The dividend for the year has been increased from 10.35p to 10.5p, covered by earnings of 20.7p, up 38 per cent. Mr Buch said the firm was concentrating on having dividend cover of two times, in line with the sector. The final payment of 7p is due on July 5.

Pennington, page 27

European recovery lifts Blenheim

RECOVERY in the UK, France and Germany helped Blenheim, the exhibition organiser, to a 17.5 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £3.6 million last year (Patricia Tehan writes).

France was the biggest profit contributor, with an increase of 46 per cent to £14.3 million. UK profits rose 50 per cent to £7.2 million and in Germany there was a 35 per cent rise to £6.2 million. All three

benefited from cost-cutting and restructuring measures in 1994. The only black spot was the US where, said Neville Buch, the chairman, the company suffered from competitive pressures.

Mr Buch sounded a note of warning about prospects for the current year. He said the exhibition business tends to trail GDP by 12 or 18 months and "there are indications of a slowdown in GDP in

France and Germany". Blenheim's profits were struck after charging £1.8 million in restructuring costs.

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Rethink on joint venture accounts

BY GRAHAM SEARLENT

THE Accounting Standards Board has bowed to business opinion and abandoned a proposal to treat associate companies and joint ventures as a single category of strategic alliance. Instead, the board has introduced two new concepts of joint ventures, according to whether the venture operates as a single concern, or is just an umbrella body for partner companies' interests.

Sir David Tweedie, the board's chairman, said that joint ventures were becoming much more common and companies had not previously had clear accounting rules to deal with them.

Proposals in an early discussion paper, which called for much more detailed disclosure of the results of associates have also been scaled back to ease potential burdens on business. The board now asks only for aggregate figures.

Companies will, however, no longer have such scope to massage their accounts. Under FRED II, the draft for a new accounting standard on associates and joint ventures, definitions of associates will be tightened up.

The board aims to ensure that a company can only account its share of profits in future if it exercises significant permanent influence as well as controlling a fifth of a supposed associate company.

The proposals will make life easier for venture capital companies. Joint ventures will normally be equity accounted. But if the operations and assets of each company in the joint venture are essentially separate, their interest will be consolidated in their own accounts, as it were part of their business. The board is asking for comments on its exposure draft by June 30.

Results warning at Newman Tonks

NEWMAN TONKS, the architectural products supplier to the building industry, warned shareholders that the cost of further rationalisation implemented as a result of continuing poor UK trading conditions would have an adverse effect on first-half results. The company said that after the £30 million acquisition of Dor-O-Matic in February, America was its most profitable single market.

The company reported 1995 profits of £27.2 million before tax, which included an exceptional profit on disposals of £10.1 million. Profits in 1994 were £20.2 million. Earnings, excluding the exceptional profit, were down 20 per cent at 8.48p a share (10.65p). The total dividend rises to 6.9p a share from 6.75p, with a final 4p. The shares fell 5p to 120p. Christopher Hughes, chairman, said UK results were severely affected by a downturn in the market from the second quarter.

CRH expands in US

CRH, the building materials group, has acquired Jack B Parson, an American aggregates, asphalt and paving company based in Utah, for \$87 million. Parson will become part of Oldcastle, CRH's US holding company. The enlarged group will have more than 100 operating locations in ten states. Annual output will include 18 million tonnes of aggregates; annual sales will be about \$450 million. In 1995, Parson made profits of \$15 million on sales of \$109 million.

Keller increases payout

KELLER GROUP, the ground engineering specialist, lifted profits 19 per cent in 1995, relying almost entirely on organic growth. Profits were £11.2 million before tax (£9.4 million) while adjusted earnings rose to 11.7p (10.3p). The total dividend is increased 10 per cent to 5.3p, with a final foreign income dividend of 3.55p a share. The company said there was an excellent performance by North American operations while UK results improved against the trend in the construction industry.

Devro advances 7%

DEVRO INTERNATIONAL, the sausage skin maker, has unveiled a 7 per cent pre-tax profits rise to £31.2 million last year. The company said that, as of December 4 last year, Devro America had been treated as a discontinued business and the profit and loss account includes the results of that business up until then. Integration of Teepak in the US will cost £10 million, the company said. The dividend for the year is 7.7p (7.05p) with the final payment of 5.1p due on May 23.

Evans Halshaw flat

EVANS HALSHAW, the multibranch motor distribution group, said the continuing downward trend in car purchasing by the retail sector still gave cause for concern, although the company was trading ahead of the market. Pre-tax profits were almost unchanged at £13.6 million (£13.5 million), despite a rise in turnover to £834.8 million (£668.7 million). Earnings were 28.8p a share (34.2p). The total dividend is 16.5p a share (15p), with a final of 11p, due on May 11.

Symonds buys for £11m

SYMONDS ENGINEERING is acquiring Zlin, a manufacturer of printed circuit boards, for £11.5 million. The acquisition is being funded through a placing and open offer of new shares, raising £11.5 million. New shares are being issued at 50p. Existing shares were suspended at 61p yesterday. Last year Zlin earned profits £1.98 million before tax on turnover of £6.7 million. Symonds has forecast profits before tax of not less than £1.4 million for the year to March 31.

Future of the UK profession

It is time to recognise that the ideology of the Eighties was flawed, says Noel Hepworth

Just what is the future relationship to be between the different UK accountancy bodies? On the answer to that question will depend the future role of the accountancy club, the Consultative Committee of Accountancy Bodies (CCAB). Mergers, given the latest failure between the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants and the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, are clearly off the agenda. The uniqueness of the British profession — its strength and diversity — therefore comes to the fore. Can it be maintained?

The ideology of the 1980s sought to teach us that success depends upon competition. The 1990s have started to show the significant flaws in that ideology. What emerged in the profession in the 1980s, accentuated by the recession in the 1990s, was full-bloodied competition between the accountancy bodies with the publicly unstated (but privately stated) aim of reducing the number of accountancy bodies by competitive action.

No wonder relationships between the bodies deteriorated and it became difficult to achieve any sort of agreement about the way forward. To adapt Clausewitz, negotiations



Noel Hepworth calls for trust to achieve co-operation

whole to match the changing needs of the marketplace. The role of the CCAB then is the management of the profession as a whole, including an ability to require member bodies to take remedial actions when appropriate. For that, all members need to have trust in its independent judgement.

None of this will be easy. It will mean sacrificing the sacred cow of competition on the altar of co-operation. It will mean rethinking the whole structure of the CCAB, because it would have a new managerial role.

We have experimented with competition within the profession. Can we not admit it has failed us? In the next few months the profession ought to address the implications.

It will not be easy because trust is lacking. But we should try. New institutions to manage the profession will cost a lot more money, as will proposals to reform regulation and the setting of auditing standards. Members will not want to pay because they see no benefit to them. Yet substituting co-operation for competition should work wonders for marketing budgets.

The truth is that the pessimistic scenario will emerge: cosmetic adjustments to relationships with no substantive shifts in position. How can trust be rebuilt in such circumstances?

Noel Hepworth is Director of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (Cipa).

Forget the bonfire of regulations

MOST accountants in practice never advise or audit the ICIs of this world. And they wouldn't know what to do if they did. Instead, they look after the heartland of the economy — small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). These are the start-ups, the family-owned companies, the owner-managed enterprises. Or they are known by other generic name — trouble.

This is the world at which all the Government's many wars on red tape, its efforts to lift the burdens on business, are aimed. This is the world where, in the popular view, small companies are crippled by late-paying behemoths, brought low by stingy and uncaring banks, balked at every stage by unfair distribution systems and crippled by the bureaucracy and cost of being forced to have a statutory audit.

The truth tends to be the opposite, however uncomfortable it is for the myth of the beleaguered small business person. Two reports bear this out. The first, *The Pulse Survey*, is by a team at the London Business School, sponsored by Binder Hamlyn. Both show that when SMEs complain that the world is against them, they are usually complaining about the wrong thing. "Too much bureaucracy is commonly held to be the reason why businesses with potential fail to grow," said Mac Reilly, of Binder Hamlyn.

"But our research confirms that it is the directors' attitude towards growth that is crucially important. Without the right attitude, a business with everything going for it will often fail. Yet other businesses will succeed against all odds due to sheer determination."

The report on failures produced even more interesting conclusions. Whereas the Binder Hamlyn report is based on businesses' opinions, the BDO Stoy Hayward report is based on the views of the bankers and accountants of failed small businesses. A two-thirds majority said that if remedial action had been taken over a variety of problems, the businesses would not have failed. The problems included "autocratic, inflexible owners making decisions based on emotion, who either failed to seek outside help or who resisted that which was offered"; "a poor management team with insufficient experience, inap-

propriate mix of skills, or failure to delegate managerial responsibility"; "poor operations management"; "lack of family succession"; and, most damning of all, "a weak business concept and a lack of planning".

The important point about all those reasons for failure is that none of them are technical. They are all human failings. The collapse of the businesses was not because of the wrong sort of overdraft or the wrong sort of accounting standard. It was simply because the senior management was not up to the job, or simply didn't do it. Binder's report backs this up. "Specifically, our research showed that company growth is more often determined by internal factors than by the external business environment," it said. The research found, for example, that "internal factors hostile towards growth (eg, lack of innovation, fear of diluting ownership, or aversion to debt) dominate external factors conducive to growth (eg, lack of market growth, availability of loans/overdrafts, or high labour costs); and internal factors conducive to growth tend to dominate external factors hostile towards it." In other words, companies that manage themselves successfully should have little to complain about which is not under their direct control. If a company is well-managed and those managers are working hard in a focused way then most problems will either be overcome or will not become problems in the first place. For example, the perennial complaint that banks never provide enough funding is dealt with deftly in Binder's report. "The availability of loans and overdrafts was inclined to be a minor constraint for high-growth companies and a major constraint for poorly performing ones," it said.

Peter Hemington, at BDO Stoy Hayward, put his finger unerringly on the same point. "It is interesting to note," he said, "that those managers who did ask for help were more likely to approach their banker than their accountant. This suggests that owner-managers believe additional funding will solve their problems whereas they should be looking at the more fundamental business issues."

So we should forget the fuss about burdens on business and bonfires of regulations. That has only to do with vote-gathering. The real burdens on business, as both of these reports show, are poor management and an insistence on blaming others for its consequences.

Whistle-blower true and fair

ON Saturday, 75,000 people are arguing about your every decision. On Monday morning, you are back sorting out a tax query or two. Welcome to the world of Eddie Murray, the Scots chartered accountant who made his international debut as a referee in last Saturday's England-Ireland rugby match at Twickenham. He enjoyed the game, "once

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Win some...

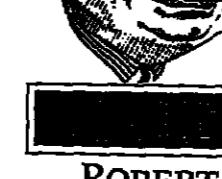
SOMETIMES you can't win. Last Friday, the English ICA announced that it had become the first professional body to win an Investors in People award, the Government's training standard. But on the same day, an independent report said that the scheme was reckoned to be too complex

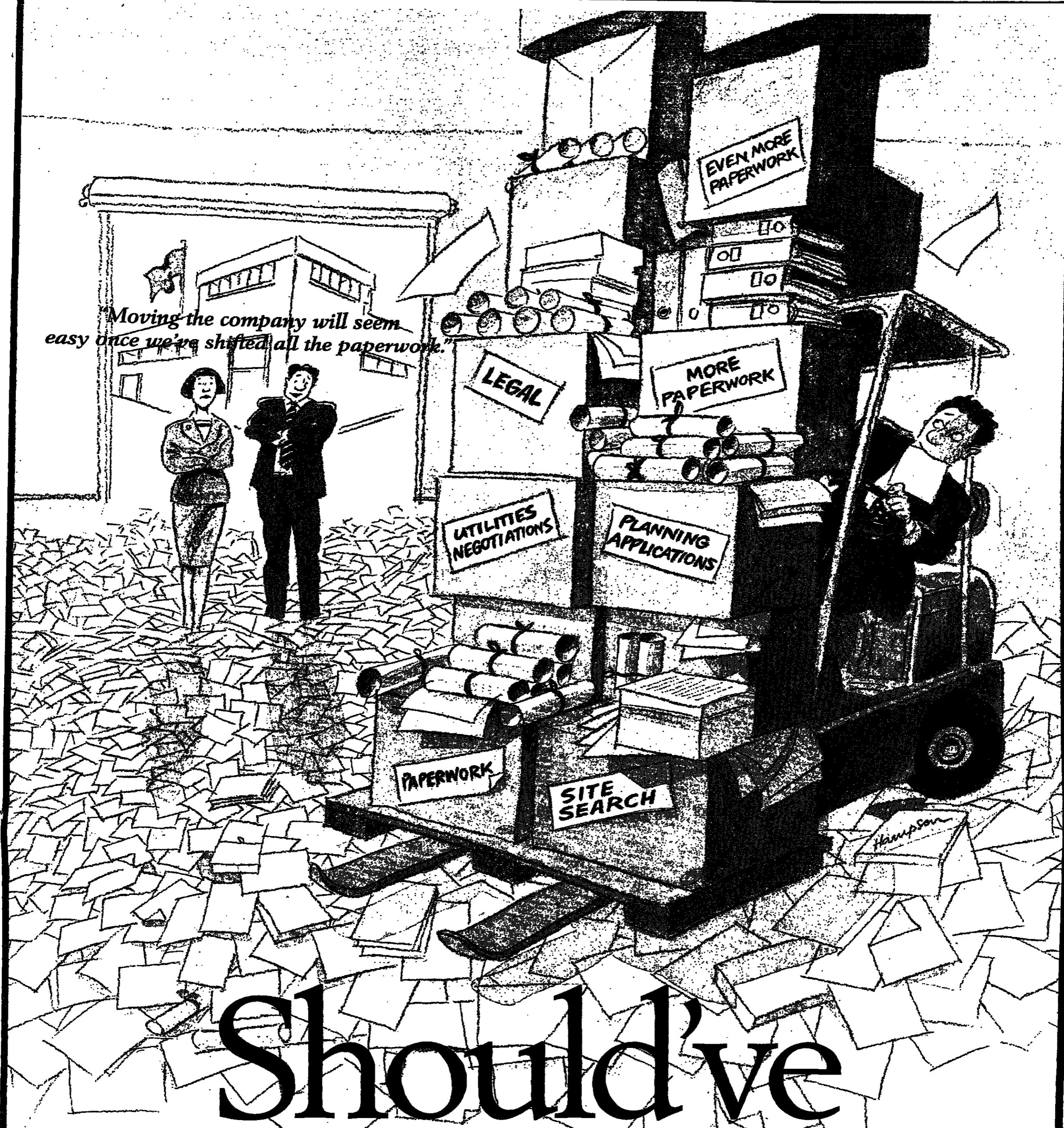
Tail-end

FOR the sedentary cricketer who prefers to get into trim for the summer season with a session in the nets — Coopers & Lybrand has provided some

entertainment. As sponsor of the world cricket ratings, it is holding a ballot for the best player of the year. The nominations fail to include a single England player and the web address is longer than the names of the Sri Lankan team put together, but they promise to update the voting figures on the site. Vote by next Friday on <http://www.coopers.co.uk/cricket/ratings/competition/index.htm>.

ROBERT BRUCE





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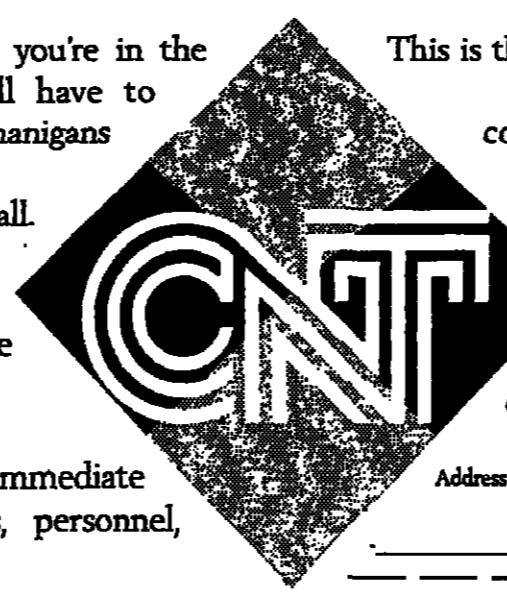
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Small losses in thin trading

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

High	Low	Company	Price	%	Yield	PE
566	516	Allied Domecq	97	-2	5.9	19.9
542	530	Bolger H&P	97	-2	5.9	19.9
547	535	Burn Stewart	117	+2	5.9	15.3
525	515	Cadogan	43	+3	8.3	18.3
517	512	Carling D	117	+2	5.9	15.3
529	515	Chivas Regal	117	+2	5.9	15.3
529	515	Corona Johnnie	117	+2	5.9	15.3
529	515	Dovey John	117	+2	5.9	15.3
529	515	Heublein	117	+2	5.9	15.3
529	515	Imperial Distillers	117	+2	5.9	15.3
529	515	Johnnie Walker	117	+2	5.9	15.3
529	515	Johnnie Walker Red	117	+2	5.9	15.3
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Law Report March 21 1996 Court of Appeal

Date of knowledge of tortious injury for limitation purposes

Forbes v Wandsworth Health Authority

Before Lord Justice Stuart-Smith, Lord Justice Evans and Lord Justice Rook [Judgment March 14]

Where a plaintiff had sustained a major injury as a result of an operation which he had expected to be successful, his date of knowledge for the purposes of sections 11 and 14 of the Limitation Act 1980 occurred as soon as he had had time to overcome the shock of the injury, take stock of his disability and seek advice.

The Court of Appeal so held by a majority (Lord Justice Rook dissenting) in a reserved judgment allowing an appeal by the defendants, Wandsworth Health Authority, from a ruling on a preliminary issue by Judge Peter Baker, QC, sitting as a judge of the Queen's Bench Division in King's Lynn upon Hull District Registry, in favour of the plaintiff, Nelson Vernon Dugald Forbes, who died on February 5, 1995. Jean Mavis Cecilia Forbes, his widow and personal representative, was substituted as plaintiff, under rule 7 of Order 15 of the Rules of the Supreme Court, on August 2, 1995.

Leave was granted to appeal to the House of Lords.

Section 11 of the 1980 Act provides: "If this section applies to any action for damages for negligence... where the damages claimed by the plaintiff for the negligence... consist of or include damages in respect of personal injury..." An action... shall not be

brought after the expiration of the period applicable in accordance with subsections (4).

"(4)... the period applicable is three years from — (a) the date when the cause of action accrued; (b) the date of knowledge (if later) of the person injured."

Section 14 provides: "(1) In sections 11... of this Act references to a person's date of knowledge are references to the date on which he first had knowledge of the following facts: — (a) that the injury in question was significant; and (b) that the injury was attributable in whole or in part to the act or omission which is alleged to constitute negligence."

"(2) For the purposes of this section a person's knowledge includes knowledge which he might reasonably have been expected to acquire: — (a) from facts observable or ascertainable by him; or (b) from facts ascertained by him with the help of medical or other appropriate expert advice which it is reasonable for him to seek..."

Mr Martin Spencer for the defendants, Mr Christopher Little for Mr Forbes.

LORD JUSTICE STUART-SMITH said that the action concerned an allegation of medical negligence in relation to the treatment of Mr Forbes. The writ was issued on December 10, 1992, more than seven years after the expiry of the primary limitation period. The question whether the action was statute-barred depended upon whether "the date of knowledge" of the deceased as defined in section 14 was within three years of the issue of the writ.

It was not until 1991 that the deceased took any steps to obtain

professional advice. By that time Mrs Forbes was finding the strain of looking after the deceased increasingly arduous. The solicitor was consulted on June 26, 1991.

The judge held that the deceased had no actual knowledge because he had no reason to suspect or think that the removal of his leg was due to the act or omission of the defendants that was alleged to constitute negligence.

The negligence was said to consist of an omission to operate sooner. It was said that the delay was the cause of the injury and that delay was negligent. It was not sufficient that the deceased knew that he had lost his leg and that there was in fact a period of time between the first and second operations.

Mr Limb argued that the deceased did not even know that he was injured, within section 14(4), or that the injury was significant, within section 14(1)(a), until he obtained medical advice in 1991.

However, his Lordship had no doubt that Mr Spencer was right in submitting that the injury was the amputation and that it was significant. Therefore the deceased knew of the injury and knew that it was significant within a very short time.

Did the deceased know prior to receipt of the opinion by the vascular surgeon in 1991 that the loss of his leg was attributable in whole or in part to the omission to operate sooner than 11.45am on October 25, 1982?

Mr Spencer submitted that all that the deceased needed to know was that there was a period of time

between the first and second operations, that the second operation was not successful and that in consequence of the second operation not being successful his leg was amputated.

His Lordship said that in many medical negligence cases the plaintiff would not know that his injury was attributable to the omission of the defendant alleged to constitute negligence in the sense that it was capable of being attributable to that omission until he was also told that the defendant had been negligent.

But that did not alter the fact that there was a distinction between causation and negligence: the first was relevant to section 14(1), the second was not.

The fact that in such cases it might be necessary for the plaintiff also to know of the negligence before he could identify the omission alleged to have been negligent was nothing to the point. It did not mean that he fell foul of the closing words of section 14(1). Accordingly, the judge was correct in holding that there was no actual knowledge.

As to section 14(3), it was clear that the deceased could reasonably have been expected to acquire the relevant knowledge with the help of reasonable medical advice. The real question was whether it was reasonable for him to seek that advice.

One of the problems with the language of section 14(3)(b) was that two courses of section might be perfectly reasonable. Thus it might be perfectly reasonable for a person who was not cured when he had hoped to be to say: "Oh well, it

is just one of those things. I expect the doctor did his best."

Alternatively, the explanation for the lack of success might be due to want of care on the part of those in whose charge he was, in which case it would be perfectly reasonable to take a second opinion. But the person was in effect making a choice, either consciously by deciding to do nothing, or unconsciously by in fact doing nothing.

Could a person who had effectively made that choice many years later, without any alteration of circumstances, change his mind and seek advice which revealed that all along he had a claim. His Lordship thought not.

It seemed to his Lordship that where, as here, the plaintiff expected that the operation would be successful and it manifestly was not, with the result that he sustained a major injury, a reasonable man of moderate intelligence, such as the deceased, if he thought about the matter, would say that the lack of success was "Either just one of those things, a risk of the operation or something may have gone wrong and there may have been a fault of care. I do not know what, but if I am ever to make a claim, I must find out."

Any other construction would make the Act unworkable since a plaintiff could delay indefinitely before seeking expert advice and say, as the deceased did, that he had no occasion to seek it earlier. That was contrary to the whole purpose of the Act which was to prevent defendants being vexed by stale claims which it was no longer possible to contest.

To section 14(3), it was clear that the deceased could reasonably have been expected to acquire the relevant knowledge with the help of reasonable medical advice. The real question was whether it was reasonable for him to seek that advice.

One of the problems with the language of section 14(3)(b) was that two courses of section might be perfectly reasonable. Thus it might be perfectly reasonable for a person who was not cured when he had hoped to be to say: "Oh well, it

is just one of those things. I expect the doctor did his best."

His Lordship found difficulty with that passage. If the standard of reasonableness was objective but must be qualified to take into account the position, circumstances, character and intelligence, and he had cited the judgment of the Court of Appeal in *Nash v Eli Lilly & Co* ([1993] 1 WLR 782, 799). Like Lord Justice Rook, his Lordship found difficulty in seeing how the individual character and intelligence of the plaintiff could be relevant in an objective test.

His Lordship had come to the conclusion that in the circumstances of the case the deceased did have constructive knowledge. That knowledge could not be attributed to him immediately he came out of hospital. He would have to have time to overcome the shock, take stock of his grave disability and its consequences and seek advice. That would take about 12 to 18 months.

Accordingly, the preliminary issue should be determined in the defendants' favour.

Lord Justice Evans delivered a judgment.

LORD JUSTICE ROCH, dissenting only on the constructive knowledge issue, said that the judge's directions to himself on the law were based on *Nash v Eli Lilly*, where constructive knowledge was dealt with.

The court there said: "The proper approach is to determine what this plaintiff should have observed or ascertained, while asking no more of him than is reasonable. The standard of reasonableness in connection with

the observations and/or the effort to ascertain are therefore finally objective but must be qualified to take into account the position, circumstances and character of the plaintiff."

His Lordship found difficulty with that passage. If the standard of reasonableness was objective, then the position, circumstances and character of a would-be plaintiff could not be relevant although the circumstances in which the would-be plaintiff found himself at the time it was said he should have sought expert advice would be relevant.

Nevertheless, *Nash v Eli Lilly* bound the judge and their Lordships. Because the judge had to take account of the deceased's position, circumstances and character, and because the judge saw and heard the deceased, his Lordship was not prepared to hold that the judge was clearly wrong in the conclusion he came to on the issue.

It would be unfortunate if the question asked in section 14(3)(b) were to be resolved by implying to a would-be plaintiff an unconscious decision to do nothing and then requiring him to stand by that decision.

Such an approach would encourage those undergoing medical treatment which did not achieve the desired result to go automatically to another specialist for an opinion whether the treatment given could have been made more effective.

Solicitors: Caginicks, Putney; Hepworths, Goole.

No right to oral Parole Board hearing

Regina v Parole Board, Ex parte Mansell

Before Lord Justice Ottoway and Mr Justice Newman

[Judgment March 7]

An offender serving a longer than normal fixed term sentence imposed under section 2(2)(b) of the Criminal Justice Act 1991 had no right to an oral hearing before the Parole Board.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so stated in a reserved judgment when dismissing an application for judicial review by Craig Mansell of a decision of the board dated August 9, 1995 on his suitability for parole.

On March 5, 1993 Mansell was sentenced for three indecent assaults on a man to five years imprisonment, half of which was imposed, pursuant to section 2(2)(b) of the 1991 Act as over and above the sentence deemed appropriate to the seriousness of the offence, for the protection of the public.

The board should therefore have considered only whether his continued detention was necessary to prevent serious harm to the public.

The secretary of state and the board had failed to acknowledge that section 2(2)(b) detainees in the preventive phase should attract a discretionary life sentence, nor a half-life sentence.

The judge fixed the whole of the length of the sentence under section 2(2)(b) and that placed the sentence in a category as any other finite custodial sentence.

Consequently the section 2(2)(b) was conceptually different from a discretionary life sentence, nor was it a half-life sentence.

His Lordship could not accept those arguments. In the present case the sentencing judge stated that the appropriate sentence would have been two and a half years but in order to protect the public the proper sentence was five years.

There was no provision requiring a formal court order fixing the length of the retributive or deterrent part of the sentence. The Court of Appeal had not spelt out such an obligation either in the present case [see (1994) 15 Cr App R (S) 771] or any other.

That was in distinct contrast to section 34(1)(b) which required such a period to be stated in the case of a discretionary life sentence.

When the court imposed a section 2(2)(b) sentence, other than a discretionary life sentence, under (a) the sentence was for such time as in the opinion of the court was commensurate with the seriousness of the offence and the sole purpose and justification for his continued detention was to prevent him causing serious harm to the public so that he had entered the preventive phase of his detention.

Alternatively, under (b) the sentence was for such longer term as in the opinion of the court was

necessary to protect the public from serious harm. In other words Parliament had specifically imposed upon the sentencer the responsibility to carry out what Mr Jay termed a prospective exercise.

Moreover, by section 2(2)(b) the test for the sentencing court was whether the term was necessary to protect the public from serious harm from the offender. That was not the same requirement as in section 34(4)(b) in which the statutory test for the Parole Board was whether "it is no longer necessary for the protection of the public that the prisoner should be confined".

Thus it did not follow that once the first part of a section 2(2)(b) sentence, if identified, had expired there was a right to be released if he was no longer a risk. Thus in his Lordship's view, the sentence under section 2(2)(b) was an "industrial building or structure" as defined in section 18(1)(e) of the Act it was to use as an "office" within the meaning of section 18(4) and was thus expressly excluded from the definition.

Discretionary life prisoners were a unique category, along with those detained during her Majesty's pleasure following the decision of the European Court of Human Rights in *Hussain v UK* [1994] 1 AC 792, 799.

The secretary of state had recognised that more than normal fairness required an oral hearing for such prisoners and in order to bring the UK in line with their obligations arising out of article 5(4) of the European Convention on Human Rights (1953, Cmd 8969).

The section 2(2)(b) prisoner was not in the same category. There was no reason why, in principle, logic or fairness the common law should create a right to a section 2(2)(b) prisoner which was a special right of the discretionary life prisoner.

His Lordship was satisfied that the process by which a prisoner was permitted to state his case to the Parole Board as a whole afforded him a sufficient and fair opportunity to put his case. It was not in any event open to contend before the court that the Board had acted in breach of the European Convention on Human Rights: see *R v Secretary of State for the Home Department, Ex parte Brind* [1991] 1 AC 771.

Mr Justice Newman agreed.

Solicitors: Paul Rooney & Co, Liverpool; Treasury Solicitor.

Unspecified night flights order valid

Regina v Secretary of State for Transport, Ex parte Richmond upon Thames London Borough Council and Others

[No 4]

Before Mr Justice Jowitt

[Judgment March 8]

It was lawful for the Secretary of State for Transport to restrict the total number of night aircraft movements for an agreed period of time at designated aerodromes, without specifying the maximum number of movements in respect of each separate period.

Mr Justice Jowitt, sitting in the Queen's Bench Division, so held in a reserved judgment dismissing an application for judicial review by Richmond upon Thames, Hounslow and Lambeth Councils, Surrey County Council, Windsor and Maidenhead Royal Borough Council, and Slough Borough Council, against the secretary of state's decision announced in a press release on August 8, 1995 in respect of night flight restrictions at Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted airports for various periods from October 22, 1995.

The secretary of state had made

garded as enlarging rather than restricting the statutory power to impose limits on the number of aircraft movements.

There was therefore power under subsection 3(3)(b) to impose limits both by reference to individual specified periods and to the aggregation of specified periods. The words which preceded paragraphs (a) to (c) in subsection (3) allowed the secretary of state to do all or any of the things permitted by those paragraphs. If the secretary of state decided to exercise his power under one of the paragraphs he was not obliged to exercise every aspect of the power created by that paragraph. There was no reason why the subsection should not read so restrictively.

It was submitted that the decision was unlawful because although it set a permitted noise level for 1993-1998 less than the level permitted for the preceding period 1988-1993, the effect was to allow more noise than was actually experienced in summer 1988.

It was clear that the power under section 7(3)(b) could only be used for the purpose of avoiding, limiting

or mitigating the effect of noise and vibration generated by aircraft movements which, but for the exercise of that power, might not be avoided, limited or mitigated.

The comparison drawn by the subsection was not between what was proposed and what had been permitted by an earlier order, but between what was proposed and what the position would be if there were to be no order at all.

Solicitors: Richard Button, Cambridge; Treasury Solicitor.

THE MORTGAGE CORPORATION LTD v UBAH

Before Lord Justice Waite, Mr Justice Millett and Lord Justice Thorpe

[Judgment March 7]

Where under the terms of his tenancy the tenant was to share a kitchen with his landlord the tenancy was a restricted contract within section 21 of the Rent Act 1977 even though the landlord was incapable of making use of the kitchen.

The principal question raised by the appeal was whether the tenant ceased to suffer that disadvantage if there was a change of lessor resulting in an individual landlord being replaced by a limited company. A corporation, it was suggested, being a mere creature of the law without appetite or culinary capability was incapable of submitting to a shared use of its kitchen because it could not itself make use of a kitchen at all.

The property concerned was a first and second floor maisonette at 28 Lyndford Road, Cricklewood, London. On January 25, 1985 a long leasehold interest in the maisonette was acquired by a Nigerian lawyer, Chief Sado Oseghale. On August 8, 1989 he mortgaged the maisonette to the company for £85,000. The chief defaulted on the mortgage payments and the company obtained an order for possession of the maisonette on December 7, 1990.

Part of the maisonette was occupied, however, by Mr Ubaah. He claimed to be a tenant of the premises comprising one of the

second floor bedrooms, the second floor bathroom and the first floor lounge. He also claimed to be entitled, under the terms of his tenancy, to the use of the kitchen.

According to his unchallenged evidence, the chief was not in permanent occupation of the property. From time to time he authorised others to stay there, but he and his wife also stayed there on occasions.

On May 17, 1991, the tenant obtained an order that the warrant for possession obtained by the company as landlord be stayed so far as he was concerned and that the possession order take effect subject to his tenancy. The landlord then served him with, inter alia, a notice to quit and sought to obtain a possession order against him on the basis that he was a tenant under a restricted contract under section 21 of the 1977 Act.

On December 1, 1994 the judge found that the tenant occupied the premises under a restricted contract within the terms of section 21. In so finding he rejected the tenant's plea that the sharing arrangements, notwithstanding that they might not be possible at the time being exercised, nevertheless remained exercisable.

In answering that question, which went to the heart of the case, his Lordship would be prepared to assume in favour of the tenant that it was indeed the case that for so long as the landlord under a restricted company it would be impossible for the landlord, because of the disabilities imposed by its corporate



■ DANCE

English National Ballet's *Alice* heralds the start of a new dance era at the Coliseum



■ THEATRE 1

The seedy side of Cardiff is explored at the Donmar in *Song from a Forgotten City*

THE TIMES ARTS



■ THEATRE 2

You name it, we'll prove it: Modern Problems in Science apply a touch of the comic to the cosmic



■ MUSIC

In Birmingham, an entertaining evening of Stockhausen and the rest of the Fifties crowd

It's not a house, it's a home

DANCE: The future looks brighter for English National Ballet after its new deal with the Coliseum. Debra Craine reports

Derek Deane must have been feeling pretty pleased with himself on Tuesday night. His new *Alice in Wonderland* was making its London premiere in a royal gala performance attended by the Princess of Wales, while his company, English National Ballet, was back in the theatre it wants to call home.

When Deane took over as artistic director in 1993 he said that one of his priorities was to find a proper showcase for ENB in London, and he was determined that would be the Coliseum. It would not be easy: relations between English National Ballet and English National Opera — the Coliseum's landlords — had been unsettled for some time and ENB seasons at the Coliseum were patchy. But this week Deane has an agreement in his pocket that will see ENB taking up an annual Christmas residence at the Coliseum.

What this means is that after more than 45 years, ENB is severing its ties with the Festival Hall, which has provided a home for the company's *Nutcrackers* in London since 1950. While this may not be good news for the South Bank, it is good news for dancers and public alike. Festival Hall has never been an ideal venue for dance — it was designed as a concert hall, after all — and ENB's productions have never looked right there in the makeshift proscenium arch. The Coliseum, meanwhile, is the choicest dance space in the capital. No wonder the dancers were beaming when Deane told them the news.

There will be one final *Nutcracker* season at the Festival Hall this

Christmas. After that, ENB will take residence across the river and Deane will mark the move by choreographing a new production of *Nutcracker* for December 1997. With five weeks at its disposal in the Coliseum every year, ENB can also show London its other large-scale ballets at Christmas. And that's not all. New links between ENB and ENO have been forged; there is even talk of possible artistic collaborations between the two companies. So, the future was looking rosy on

Alice in Wonderland Coliseum

Tuesday. If only the same could be said for the ballet taking place on stage. Deane's *Alice* was reviewed at its premiere in Southampton last October and its weaknesses pointed out then. A second viewing does not convince me that it has more to offer than some exceptionally pretty designs by Sue Blane, great stage effects by Blane and the illusionist Paul Kieve, and the familiarity of Lewis Carroll's eccentric, anthropomorphic creatures.

The music, a hotchpotch of Tchaikovsky sources arranged by Carl Davis, does not stand up dramatically, even though David Coleman worked hard in the pit at whipping up some kind of monte power. And without a musical framework that develops a theme and embellishes an emotional base, Deane's work as a choreographer is already doomed.

Alice (played enthusiastically by

Alice Crawford) is more like an observer than a ballet heroine. She watches as the weird cast list parades before her: the White Rabbit, Caterpillar, Cheshire Cat, Mad Hatter and the Dormouse (a perky Marta Barahona) and the rest. None of them has enough interesting choreography to do more with their roles than mug and mume; a superficial reading is all, they can hope for. Still, it is good to see English National Ballet back in the Coliseum for a run. Michael Corder's *Cinderella* gets its London bow next week, so, too, does Deane's updated *Giselle* (performed with Balanchine's *Square Dance*).

At long last the Coliseum appears to be becoming more dance-friendly. As well as taking in ENB on a regular basis, English National Opera will soon announce a Handel co-production with the Mark Morris Dance Group as part of its own 1996-97 season.

The theatre will also provide a summer home for the Royal Ballet during the closure of Covent Garden. Indeed, the closure of the Royal Opera House gives the Coliseum a golden opportunity to establish itself as the major dance house in London.

Meanwhile, an ENO feasibility study team is asking Coliseum audiences for their views on a future home for ENO and large-scale dance in London. It seems clear that whatever ENO plans for the Coliseum — which desperately needs refurbishment — dance will remain part of its thinking.



Alice Crawford as the heroine in Derek Deane's production of *Alice in Wonderland*, which received its London premiere in a royal gala performance at the Coliseum on Tuesday night

THEATRE: High-voltage imagination from a Welsh dramatist; plus, masters of improvisation

No doubting Thomas

Song from a Forgotten City
Donmar Warehouse

offload the blame. Indeed, the play comes across as an exasperated attempt to shake, rattle and roll his compatriots out of their own enervated, enervating habits.

Though it took me time to succumb to his idiom, I came to feel he was fulfilling this task in the best way possible by displaying a high-voltage imagination. He pulls us into a weird, sinister world where, as the writer-protagonist says, it isn't clear "where my life ends and my blur begins". The stage furniture consists of a toilet bowl, crushed Coke cans, cages filled with urban detritus, towering pipes, neon lights. At times this represents



Patrick Brennan, Jack James and Russell Gomer in Edward Thomas's surreal *Song from a Forgotten City*

the streets of Cardiff, a rundown hotel where the night porter wears a frock coat and a plastic skirt, the flat where the writer snorts cocaine, and his own disoriented head.

Though characters merge into each other, and some events are hallucinated, the drift is clear. After all, you don't need a Dada phrasebook to interpret the scene in which a sneering publisher urges Carlyle (as the writer is called) to pen a salable pastoral, only to get his head shoved in the lavatory in reprisal. Neither the protagonist nor his author are into nostalgia. Quite the contrary. "I came to the city in search of a metropolis," says Carlyle, "and I found only Y Cwmann's fault."

Feeling as he does that "without a city you can't have

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

Winning formula

NEVER mind the scientific problems, what about those of the reviewer setting out to write about this constantly changing show?

The three performers are an improvisational group who have developed their own original and lunatic version. Science is their area, and a spacious enough one to contain any discipline that sounds as if it can be taught at college. The audience yell out an unlikely proposition which the "professors" then proceed to prove, in terms of the academic specialties chosen for them.

On their opening night — and they are only here until Saturday — a woman required them to demonstrate that she was not really there. Dick Costolo did so in terms of medicine. Rich Fulcher relied on his suddenly life-long experience of oceanography, and Phil Granchi drew out a proof derived from taxidermy.

After the interval we were asked to come up with a demonstrably true statement, whereupon they proved the opposite, ie that triangles do

not have three sides. Tomorrow the questions will have altered, and I suppose it is just possible that one evening they will be given a proposition that defeats them. But somehow I doubt it, for they are experts in shifting goal posts.

Part of the show's appeal, to the largely student audience, may be that it mocks the procedures of the academic world. Ultimately, it is not so useful to establish that bungee-jumping failed to flourish in ancient Egypt because they only had the pyramids to jump off and kept killing themselves on the slopes. But lateral thinking is infectious, and who can foretell what stimulus the show might have upon university studies: "Improv shows led to the cure for cancer — discuss."

JEREMY KINGSTON

Uncaged and unconstrained

TOmorrow, Radio 3 will broadcast a parade of 1950s hits — Stockhausen, Cage, Messiaen — played by the Birmingham Contemporary Music Group, and I just hope the recording will capture something of the exciting and entertaining occasion last Sunday at the Adrian Boult Hall: exciting by virtue of the performances, and entertaining for the tone of easy good humour of the large audience. It is a tribute to the work of the BCMG that cheerful crowds will come to programmes that would spell box-office death on the South Bank.

In the beginning was Stockhausen: an account of his percussion solo *Zyklus* from Sasha Johnson, who showed beautiful care for sound, a command of the sudden fortissimo, and a fine sense of the music speaking through the crackling, rumbling or blistering consonants of struck wood, skin and metal. The pianist Tim Horton then demonstrated how Cage's *4:33* cannot really be performed at all: we just sat there and remembered a historical event, looking at a lump of silence in a glass case. In 1952, it meant something, but it only had to happen once.

The other Cage performance was far more successful. Nigel Robson sang, whispered, laughed, snorted and intoned, muezzin-fashion, the *Aria* written for Cathy Berberian, and he did it, as Berberian did, to the accompaniment of the composer's miscellaneous tape collage *Fontana Mix*. But I wonder if even Berberian made it such a striking and touching piece of theatre. Robson reacted to the loudspeakers' interventions — by turns affronted, pained or amused — and made his vocalisations a rejoinder, a defiant assertion of the human voice and of its capacities to communicate, thrill and alarm. With Berberian, *Aria* brought out her innate ebullience; with Robson it became a darker experience, calling up in him most often the personae of victim and interrogator.

There was a gentle *Berio Sequenza I* from Colin Lilley, and a misfire at Stravinsky's *In memoriam Dylan Thomas*, but the programme ended back bang on target with a vivid performance of Messiaen's *Oiseaux exotiques*, with Horton again at the piano, now gainfully employed, and Daniel Harding conducting. The brilliance of the music was all there, but so

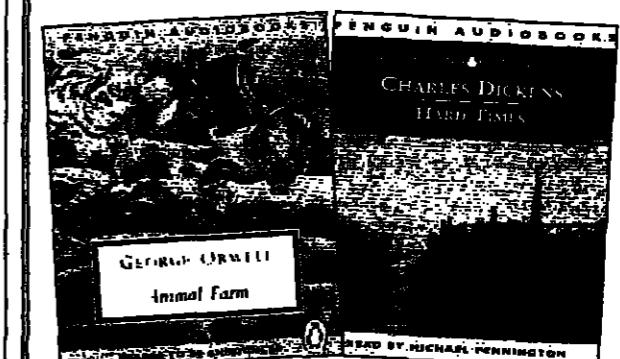
CONCERT

BCM/G Hardinge
Birmingham

too was the weight, especially the weight of silence, enough to make the piece not just wonderful but also, as it should be, a little frightening.

PAUL GRIFFITHS

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THE TIMES
A U D I O K
TOKEN 5

Robert Skidelsky on the power of victimhood

Thoughtfully challenged

Consider the case of extremely short persons (ESPs), previously known as dwarfs. Research reveals that they are seriously under-represented in higher-paid jobs. A spokesperson attributes this to "heightism", or prejudice against ESPs. To counter heightism, school curricula should be rewritten to emphasise the contributions of ESPs to human progress, discrimination on grounds of height made illegal, and positive discrimination policies in favour of ESPs instituted.

This fantasy — as it still just is — captures the flavour of the arguments put forward for the "liberation" of women, blacks, and gays and lesbians in this lively, if uneven, collection of essays. These arguments go well beyond the historic demand for equal rights, now conceded in all civilised societies. The case for the "liberation" of particular groups rests on the proposition that our societies are so imregnated with sexist, racist, or homophobic prejudices that members of the groups against whom these prejudices are directed are entitled to special support in the exercise of their legal rights (for example, through laws forbidding discrimination in housing and employment, or ensuring the teaching of homosexuality in schools), and/or to additional rights which apply only to members of the oppressed group — for example, job quotas for women and for blacks.

Arguments along these lines are advanced by the feminist Jean Hampton, the black liberationist Bernard Boxill, and Martha Nussbaum on behalf of homosexuals. Nussbaum, for example, wants to use the law to break down the atmosphere of taboo and disgust that fosters discrimination and violence against gays and lesbians".

In resisting such claims classical liberals have a hard task. Anthony Flew and Michael Levin reply that the social outcomes disliked by the liberationists ("gendered roles" for women, inferior jobs for blacks) are not, in fact, the result of patriarchy or racism but of free choice by women (Anthony Flew) or the "phenotypical characteristics" of blacks (Michael Levin). Neither view is wholly plausible. Sexism and racism do exist, and are "socially structured".

Flew and Levin might have done better to emphasise the costs to freedom of any serious legislative attempt to overturn the inherited attitudes of society, rather than argue that these attitudes are wholly rational. Yet liberals find it hard to defend institutions and practices which are not grounded in reason.

Conservatives do not suffer from this disability, and Roger Scruton effectively deploys the conservative case against Martha Nussbaum in the best exchange in the book. Nussbaum argues a right to same-sex marriage. This is hard for a liberal to resist: it is universal, it enlarges the liberty of some while imposing no restrictions on the liberty of others. Scruton puts a number of functional arguments for legal protection of the traditional family, which extend to keeping gay men out of the armed forces.

Animal rights protests, March 1995

THE LIBERATION DEBATE
Rights At Issue
Edited by Michael Leahy and Dan Cohn-Sherbok
Routledge, £40

than dismiss it as an intellectual mistake, Wilson would have done better to point out its murderous consequences, for victims and prophets alike.

Liberals have an easier time in countering the argument for children's and animal rights, put forward by John Harris and Andrew Linney respectively. An effective response here is to say that animals and children are not entitled to equal rights because they are not equal to adults or humans in the relevant respects. Michael Leahy, for example, has little difficulty in showing that animals are not "persons". With these populations, the case for special protection can be made without contradiction.

The "liberation debate" shows how powerful the claim to victimhood still is, how inventive the language used to promote it, how rusty the intellectual weapons available to resist it. The one topic missing from this book is cost. Liberation does not come cheap. So far a general disinclination to pay the costs — in money or duties — as well as some lingering taboos (against homosexual behaviour) have frustrated the liberationists. But those who worry about threats to liberty and privacy should sharpen up their weapons. They may need them.

Lord Skidelsky is Professor of Political Economy at Warwick University.

Honour to a great poet



Michael Mazur's monotypes offer a new vision of Dante

Jamie McKendrick

THE INFERNO OF DANTE
A New Verse Translation
By Robert Pinsky
J. M. Dent, £20

reflecting the whole structure. It would be folly to expect the poem to recrystallise itself intact into another language when the rhetorical resources of even a single canto have exhausted many of the finest later poets, but Robert Pinsky's translation is really to be welcomed. He offers a half-rhyme *terza rima*, where Dorothy Sayers' full rhymes, but his phrasing is far better as is his rhythmic sense.

There are, however, two prosodic weaknesses. The first is a varying line length which lacks the definition of Dante's hendecasyllables — where he settles for the pentameter the effect is instantly more electric. The other problem is a tendency to brutally enjambs his lines so that he makes the straight crooked and the resonant off-key. These annoyances don't prevent Pinsky's from being the best and the most readable contemporary English-language version of the *Inferno*.

Dante does not merely create the crowded horror-chambers of so many medieval pictures but brings back from there the individual stories in the distinctive cadences of the

Mandelstam compared the *Commedia* to a single crystal of "13,000 facets", each line

damned. We distinguish them by their voices as well as their postures: the haughty Tuscan of Farinata sitting bolt-upright in his tomb; the thin country immobilised subjunctives of Pier de la Vigna whistled through the broken branch that serves him for a larynx in the Suicide's Wood. The many languages of hell, from Nimrod's bestial gobbledegook to Ulysses' humanist gurgling tones give this inverted Babel its global range.

Although the damned can see the future, unlike the souls of the other two books they can never inhabit it, which makes their memories of earth their only tormenting possession: whilst Dante's own homesickness as a Florentine exile makes him perceive these eternal abodes through a political and geological map of Italy.

Mandelstam compared the

Commedia to a single crystal of "13,000 facets", each line

IT IS not surprising that Georges Perec compiled crosswords for a living. For the effect of reading anything of his is to be driven temporarily mad by one's ready inadequacies. To read the recent translation of *La Disparition*, a lipogrammatical novel eschewing the letter "e", was to emerge from it cursing the appearance of that letter in any other medium — newspapers, magazines, medical prescriptions — and assume its user to be illiterate and clumsy.

In this triptych, translated by Ian Monk, there is a story which uses up all the "e's" Perec had left over from *La Disparition*, and ignores the other four vowels. Just as you leave a crossword thinking everything you hear is a clue, or leave a wordsearch puzzle looking for mythical birds' names encrypted diagonally in whichever block of prose you encounter immediately afterwards, so you leave *The Exeter Text: Jewels, Secrets, Sex temporally unable to think straight*.

Perec was permanently unable to think straight, and could not compose unless he set himself inhumanly difficult limitations. That is why he was a member of OULIPO, a group of barmy writers in the 1960s who believed that literature emerged most felicitously from the imposition of quasi-mathematical constraints. They were wrong, of course, but it was the Sixties.

After Dore's lugubrious engravings which have clung to the poem's hem for so long, Michael Mazur's monotypes are a relief. With their corroded viscous darks, they make the visible a little hard to see. Two are especially haunting: a crow's eye view of the hoarders and spenders at the moment of impact, an authentic *contrapposto* and the towers of Dis like signalling Norman watchtowers.

Jamie McKendrick's *The Kiosk on the Brink* is published by OUP

merely avoid words which contain other vowels, he spells them according to his strictures: "Next, wheyish the Emeenence"; freyl feelers kerressed seven deevyeene bedes, he sed the vespers."

If nothing else, this terrifying and dislocating experience makes you pant with relief to arrive on the relatively solid ground of the other two tales.

Which Moped With Chrome-Plated Handlebars At The Back Of The Yard? does

not get any less cumbersome

once you are through the title,

but it is at least spelt traditionally, and the story — in which a group of friends plot to save

Sorted for Es

Giles Coren

THREE
By Georges Perec
Harvill, £17.99 pb original



Perec literary rebellion

He is a young man from conscription in the Algerian war by breaking his leg — is full of the dark humour of the Left Bank in the years leading up to *"Les Enfemmes"*. The exercise, in this case, is to break as many stylistic conventions as possible, and to parody a succession of rhetorical ornaments. This having been written before his enrolment with OULIPO, Perec is human enough to provide at least half an index to these at the end of his text. Oh, and the hero of the piece is never referred to twice by the same name — a spot of fun that is manageable in a 40 page novella, but would have wreaked havoc if Tolstoy had tried it in *War and Peace*.

A *Gallery Portrait* is technically the easiest to cope with. An art collector commissions a portrait of himself in a room with his collection. On the wall, in the portrait, is a portrait of the art collector in a room with his collection. On the wall, in the portrait in the portrait...

The piece is a collage of extracts from imaginary art history books, biographies, and exhibition notes, and Perec displays the huge descriptive skills that lurk behind his posturing, as each little piece becomes genuinely gripping before disappearing into something new.

As a picture of an artist consumed by the fever of method it is, of course, a self-portrait, and a tragic one at that. But it is all in the name of fun, and while realism has now firmly reestablished its grip on the literary status quo, this is a fascinating glimpse of a revolutionary age struggling to find expression.

No one, however, will be getting rich on the film rights.

Love behind the palace walls

HULTON DEUTSCH



The Princess's love for her husband enabled her to bear the isolation of her life: their arrival in London for the Queen's Coronation in 1953

Joanna Pitman on a revealing glimpse behind an imperial mask

deep unhappiness at the prospect of exile from her family and friends.

Her parents resisted. She resisted. But the pressure from Her Majesty only increased and finally after four agonising days and sleepless nights, unable to eat to go to school or to do anything but cry, duty and her sense of family honour prevailed and she at last agreed to marry the prince. "I had thought, a gomised and cried myself dry. Now that my mind was made up I would reflect and cogitate no more."

She was just 18 at the time, the natural and unrestrained daughter of Japan's ambassador to America, looking forward to a continued exuberant life revolving around her family, friends, sports, travel — and her liberty. Bursts in on her dreams in 1927 came an envoy dispatched to Washington by the Empress Dowager — widow of the late Emperor Taisho — with instructions to obtain marriage consent from parents and from daughter, who had been spotted some years earlier by the Empress Dowager on one of her bi-annual visits to Tokyo's Peers School to look for future brides for her four sons.

The poor girl could not for the life of her understand why she had to be sacrificed to the unknown "other world" of the Imperial Family, to be married to a man she had barely met once or twice in passing. She recalls the fear, panic and discipline of a young and lonely woman, floundering about in the unexplained rigours of imperial etiquette and suffering a painful initiation into the rigid formalities of court life.

Correct posture, dress and decorum was all. She was told not to let her feet show when walking, she was scolded for putting her shoes away and the mere touching of an ornamental bird in the garden brought cries of "Oh no Madam, let me do that!"

Her collection of jazz records was judged unsuitable and removed on moving into the palace and she was warned not to write casual letters. When she met her mother again months after her marriage, she was barely able to say a thing, so constrained was she by her new circumstances.

But running through her story, glinting like a gold thread, was the one saving grace of her life — her immediate fondness and later deep love for her husband, who comes across as an enlightened man, with an eagerness, rare for his time, to know and understand the Japanese people. Historians will learn much of his sympathetic and

inventive nature but little of his role in the war.

But much else of the imperial institution is revealed. Given that the imperial household is still so shrouded in secrecy and mystery, this volume offers a rare, valuable and to all appearances truthful insight, and its sanction from on high indicates an interesting change of tack for an institution hitherto terrified of the decaying breath of publicity.

The translation by Dorothy Britton is a tour de force. Done with sympathy and grace this was an exacting task given the formality of imperial Japanese language. Britton gives us many of the subtleties, hints and allusions which are the very nature of the language, but which remain so elusive to most translators.

As I read the memoirs, I could not help thinking of Crown Princess Masako, a cosmopolitan young woman with a happy future of family, career and friends to look forward to, who more recently was chosen and similarly attempted to refuse (three times over a period of some years in her case) marriage to the heir to the throne.

She too bowed to duty in the end and married in 1993, giving up her career as a diplomat and disappearing behind the walls of the imperial palace in Tokyo. Little has been seen of her since, but one can only hope that she too has found happiness and support in her husband.

Hearing spirit voices

THE OLD world of County Cork, the new world of Charles Town, Georgia and the lost Paradise of the West Indies in the early 18th century provide three backdrops for Alison MacLeod's dramatic first novel. A cast of farmers and aristocrats, pirates, sailors and slaves gives us all the vigour of an adventure story. But by positioning a cross-dressing, bi-sexual young woman centre stage, she poses some modern questions about the perception of women in a male world.

This author has already written for the theatre, and her first act here, with the birth and childhood of the changing and future pirate, Anne Bonny, is resonant with signs of the drama to come. A harsh landscape looks more like MacLeod's native Canada than the southwest coast of Ireland, and the keening voice of Annie, the peasant who raises the child, sound unlikely. But when Anne's father decides to raise his illegitimate child as a boy and claim an

Aisling Foster

THE CHANGELING
By Alison MacLeod
Macmillan, £15.99

heir for his estates, things begin to get interesting.

Earlier signs of confused sexuality are given a Freudian spin as years spent in leather breeches develop the girl's liking for how the other half lives. By the time her father quits Ireland for the New World and tries to squeeze his teenage rebel back into petticoats, it is much too late.

MacLeod appears more at home conjuring up the unlaced freedoms of the southern states of America. Yet when the drama shifts to the West Indies, her narrative is overwhelmed by tidal waves of dialogue. The inhabitants of shanty towns and a chorus of wise black women are relentlessly loquacious about shifts in taste and politics.

Yet no one ever quite steps out of character. Even Anne Bonny, who might have illuminated the pleasures of her extraordinary lifestyle, remains an icon to the end.

But in imagining her, the author has made an impressive entry into fiction. A series of set pieces haunt the imagination long after the last page: from England sitting for his portrait on a beach, stiff with family, gilt throne and spaniel pup, delineates the inexorable expansion of empire and the sight of women holding up their children to touch the dead feet of pirates swinging from gibbets nicely illustrates the new century's crossover from superstition to a rational age. In moments like these the novelist's own voice sounds more convincing than all the speeches of her ingeniously scripted actors.

Peter Ackroyd on the enigma of England's Lord Protector: a Puritan who was enthroned in ermine

To John Milton he was "our Chief of Men"; but to others he was the Anti-Christ, the beast of the Reformation eventually come to light; he was the "Matchless Prince", "Devil of later times". He has become, then, a creature of legend whose fame rests upon the fact that, as Mr Gaunt says in this excellent brief study, he is England's only "non-royal head of state".

Yet, as far as Cromwell was concerned, he was simply tossed into the air by God the gamester. He was selected by Providence and, as he once observed, "no one rises so high as he who knows not whether he is going". Posteriority hardly knows where he came from, either, since the evidence of his early life is scattered and inconclusive. He spent his first 40 years as an unknown farmer and gentleman in East Anglia; he seems to be a familiar story of a "great figure" emerging from a family "in decline", as Mr Gaunt tells us, and therefore of "ambiguous" social rank.

There are more suggestive notes, however: he was brought up in a household of seven sisters, and was prone to deep melancholy, no doubt exacerbated by the contamination of the East Anglian Fens. He displayed no interest in politics at all, but at some point he showed distinct evidence of a religious conversion. "Blessed be His name," he wrote at the age of 39, "for shining upon so dark a heart as mine!" He may not have been separate, or even precise, but he was certainly moving to the "elect" end of the religious fold.

It was in his role as one of the godly that he eventually and belated-

Light that shone on a heart of darkness

ly came to prominence. The story of his opposition to Charles I in the Long Parliament, and his post as a captain of a cavalry in the Parliamentary Army, is well enough known not to need a further rehearsal at here. Yet it is apposite to note that Cromwell discovered his true genius as an army commander; his decisiveness and power of organisation were never to be so well exercised in the political sphere, and it might be said that as Lord Protector he was always a general *manqué*. As far as he was concerned, however, he was always in the hands of God. His letters are filled with enough vows and imprecations to do justice to a sermon by Savonarola.

Of course there has been more violence and cruelty done in the name of God than that of any earthly ruler, and we might be inclined to look upon Cromwell's piety with certain misgivings. He preferred to quote from the Old Testament rather than the New, which is generally the sign of an unquiet conscience, and his blood lust during the Irish campaign is as monstrous as anything in English history. When the Puritan soldiers of New England exterminated the Indians with the name of Christ upon their lips, they were merely rehearsing

Cromwell's belief that his massacre of the Roman Catholic Irish, or "wild Irish", was evidence of God's righteous justice.

The same kind of religious sensitivity is at work in both instances, at once paranoid and vindictive, exclusive and minatory. Cromwell often talked of blood being split, or harvested; he dismissed the Rump

customs of his country, and a hundred years after the Reformation Oliver Cromwell might be seen as finishing the work of Thomas Cromwell. As Mr Gaunt notes, he became "a party to violent unconstitutional action and the destruction of the existing political and governmental system". This is what happens when you espouse a religion based upon faith and grace rather than tradition and authority.

Yet it must also be said that he was less rigid and less discriminatory than many of his colleagues, and he generally deemed it safer to take a middle course through the waves of political faction. As a result he was accused then, and now, of mendacity allied with overwhelming ambition. His constant invocations of "the Lord" in the middle of various conspiratorial manoeuvres certainly lay him open to the charge of mischievous hypocrisy. There is a very interesting description from a contemporary pamphlet: "You shall scarce speak to Cromwell about anything, but he will lay his hand on his breast, elevate his eyes, and call God to record; he will weep, howl, and repent, even while he doth smite you under the first rib". Certainly his violent dismissal of Parliament, and his acceptance of monarchical pow-

ers, do not suggest the behaviour of one altogether humble in the service of the Lord. As Protector, he lived in the palaces of Whitehall and Hampton Court; his head, enwreathed in laurel, appeared on coins and medals. On his first enthronement he wore a plain black suit, and yet for his second he wore ermine. He was addressed as "Your Highness", and effectively turned himself into "King Oliver".

This is a carefully written and well argued account; since its author is also chairman of the Cromwell Association, it is also extraordinarily impartial. Yet Cromwell himself does not emerge in any vivid or particular light. He was prone to sudden euphoria and depression — "always making haste", as he said of himself — but there are very few other clues about what was, even to his contemporaries, a most puzzling character.

An interesting thesis on the subject of Charles Dickens's *Oliver Twist* suggests that the novel is in fact a fantastic reworking of the events of the mid-17th century, with the characters of Oliver Twist and Monks — half-brothers in rivalry over an inheritance — somehow echoing the historical roles of Oliver Cromwell and General Monk. It is a possibility, of course, but in fact Cromwell would be much better placed in the pages of *Martin Chuzzlewit*. He is part Pecksniff and part Tom Pinch, hypocritical and pious at the same time. Was he a great leader, or was he a great charlatan? Could the truth be that he was, perhaps, both?

OLIVER CROMWELL
By Peter Gaunt
Blackwell, £18.99

Parliament in part because its members had "never bled" for their nation, and so we are presented with the idea of national life as a continual sacrifice in the tradition of Moloch or Magog.

More particular forces were also at work in this strange polity. Cromwell had a hatred of Roman Catholics, and it is well known that there was a large band of "Levellers" in his army. During the time of the Civil Wars and of his Protectorate, therefore, there is a more general cultural and social struggle in evidence. It was a Puritan who tried effectively to renounce the ancient

AN ACT FOR THE ATTAINMENT OF THE REBELS IN IRELAND.

At the Parliament begun at Westminster the 17th day of September, An. Dom. 1657.



The Cromwell Act of 1657 confiscated the estates of Irish rebels and banished "those of Popish religion"

Pass the Alka-Seltzer

Adopting the Proustian method of allowing sensual experience to dictate narrative shape and suddenly re-experienced tastes to evoke long-forgotten childhood memories, John Lanchester's novel idles along on a sentimental and gastronomic journey through France, mixing story-telling, recipes, reminiscence and hints of mysterious crimes to tickle the reader's palate and nudge even the most unwilling audience into admiration of its cleverness.

Irony, so beloved of a certain sort of English writer, is apparently all: style, content, solution. The novel opens as the memoir, jotted as he goes, of Tarquin Winot, gourmet, word-spinner and snob. At first there's no obvious reason why Winot (Why-not?) should write as he does, piling Baroque clause upon wordy mete-

Michèle Roberts

THE DEBT TO PLEASURE
By John Lanchester
Picador, £15.99

aphor upon over-lengthy parenthesis to produce toppling Eiffel Towers of prose. This parody of Brillat-Savarin, seasoned with a dash of Henry James and peppered, as noted above, with *hommage* to Proust, seems mere self-indulgent pastiche, the borrowing of others' language as costumes substituting for the proper development of character.

Soon, we come to realise that Winot, like a 19th-century maid turned out of the house for immorality, cannot be given a character. He is what he seems: all surface. He's in disguise. The plot of the novel turns out to be indeed a *plot*, with murder and love at its heart. The novel transforms itself in an astonishing way, much as a bowl of egg cream turns into a soufflé when you're not looking. The picaresque cookbook becomes a thriller, and like the dinner guests, applauding a perfect soufflé's lightness we have to admit that Lanchester has had us delightedly fooled.

The novel, following Winot's leisurely progress south, permits itself many diversions, through the seasons, and through the regions of France, in order to throw dust in the reader's eyes about the purpose of the trip while simultaneously allowing delicious anecdotes of gourmandise to be recounted. Arrival by boat in St Malo, for example, provokes Winot to remember the sort of winter menu cooked by his Irish nanny Mary-Teresa. We're given not only her classic version of Irish stew but also the story of her dismissal from the narrator's Paris home for theft. This episode is charmingly told. Winot's personality slips; he and his style become simpler and more *sympathique*.

He recovers himself. His sentences are once more hecti-

cally garnished to the point of hysteria, and he goes back to being unpleasant: half a bottle of wine is "spinsterish", civilisation depends upon ignoring the starving, and so on. The clue to his emotional state is always to be found in his language. Giving himself away is always followed by even more extravagant dandyish posing.

He has a poet's ear for naming and for lists. He is capable of appreciating the elaborate display of a charcuterie: "jambon fumé, jambon de Bayonne, prosciut-

to crudo di Parma, jambon d'Ardennes..." — and so on.

In between these disquisitions, the plot thickens much like Irish stew, imperceptibly and gradually. Winot reveals, or pretends to, the tale of his famous artist brother, their sibling rivalry, his own long-held grudges. Tracking an apparently innocent honeymoon couple, he ensnares and manipulates them so that they become actors in his design for villainy. The chit-chat is unusually done: you may find this fig confiture especially apt with that brioche ... Italian

friends do say that figs are the ideal accompaniment to Parma ham. These, of course, are from one's own tree. Laura, spot more coffee? *Domage*.

It's possible to find the old codgerese, the young fogey clichés, wearisome. Winot does go on a great deal. Even the most delicious French lunch can have its *longueurs*. Sometimes I wanted a literary equivalent of the *trou normand*, a little snifter to aid digestion. Just a soupçon less self-congratulation on the author's part would also have been welcome.

Libby Purves
CASTING OFF

'Fabulously incisive'

INDEPENDENT

Faith in Saint Jane

Piers Paul Read

THE QUEST FOR GOD
A Personal Pilgrimage
By Paul Johnson
Weidenfeld and Nicolson, £14.99

personal references from time to time to his wife Marigold, his invariably elevated companions (Jean Sibelius, A.J. Ayer, Margaret Thatcher, a duke, a Scottish laird, a "beautiful and fashionable lady"), and he describes his own habits of prayer: he goes to church every morning and kisses "Our Lord's poor feet, nailed to the cross and bleeding, before I begin my work each day". However, none of this makes *The Quest for God* a confessional work like St Augustine's *Confessions*. It is rather a work of personalised apologetics in the tradition of G.K. Chesterton, Karl Adam or F.J. Sheed.

Johnson is not without views that might raise the odd eyebrow in Rome. He prays to Jane Austen to help him to perfect his prose, and believes that women should be able to be priests, bishops and even Pope. One wonders how he has reacted to the present Pope's ruling to the contrary, pronounced infallible by Cardinal Ratzinger.

The Quest for God is gentle, learned and written in a fine prose style. My only disappointment was the feeling that while this is undoubtedly the truth it is not the whole truth. If not doubts, has there been no suffering? No dark nights of the soul? Johnson has given us an excellent *Profession of Faith*: his *De Profundis* has yet to come.

Charming the elements

Tibor Fischer

PARTICLE THEORY
By Jonathan Gathorne-Hardy
Hutchinson, £14.99

London to devote himself to searching for Elfrida, his beloved Larvian nanny, and to filling the large house he lives in with his various collections.

Ivan's life, on the other hand, is far more dramatic and globe-trotting. He, like Michael, is an orphan, but as physically rugged as Michael is weedy. He volunteers for the Red Army, but then deserts and escapes from the Soviet Union. He, like Michael, goes to Cambridge, but it is only at the end of the book, in present-day Israel, that they are fate to meet with memorable impact; Ivan has years of travelling to do before that rendezvous.

Michael Wordingham's life is easily summed up: brought up by his grandmother in Suffolk, educated first at home, then at Cambridge, after which he moves to

The drawback to writing this well is that pedestrian passages stick out. One or two of the middle sections, such as Ivan's arm-wrestling exploits in Africa, or Michael's gradual repulsion of his house, while entertaining in themselves, almost seem to be there only to delay the catastrophe.

Nevertheless, *Particle Theory* is a work that will keep its readers on their toes as Gathorne-Hardy switches style from run-of-the-mill realism to comedy, to a mutant expressionism, and back again.

Ivan comes up through the floorboards of a beautiful girl's bedroom in a provincial town called Rubinsk and announces to her: "I found I had this power. I could create people... I could make all sorts of things happen — cows go mad, the rivers flood. And one day I created Rubinsk."

"But that's nonsense," said Sofya. "Rubinsk's been here for centuries."

Gathorne-Hardy writes with great simplicity, and with much wit and colour: "there are French letters all along the shore like the ghosts of cocks".

It takes you a while to decide who's right. *Particle Theory* is funny, sometimes extremely moving and clever, you'll probably have to read it twice.

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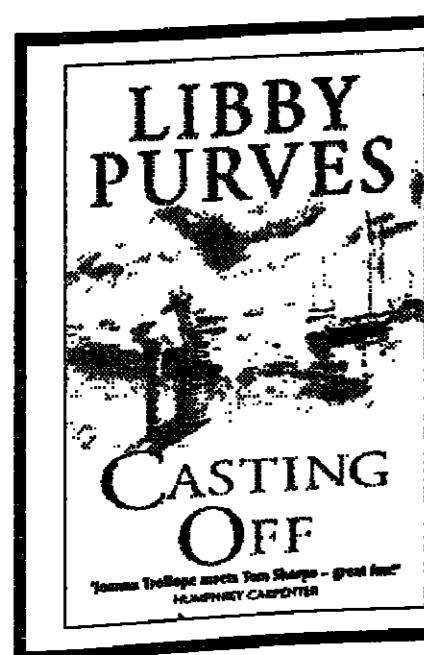
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INDEPENDENT



Disney to launch its own cruise liners

BY DAVID CHURCHILL

DISNEY yesterday unveiled plans to launch the two largest purpose-built cruise ships in the world. It also revealed it had bought a Bahamian island to be a Disney-themed port of call for cruise passengers.

Disney plans to have its first ship, the 85,000-ton *Disney Magic*, in service by the beginning of 1998 and a second vessel, *Disney Wonder*, launched later that year. Both will be built in Trieste, Italy.

The decision to build its own

cruise ships comes amid reports that Disney is interested in buying the *Queen Elizabeth II* from the troubled Cunard Line. Disney sources now say such a move is unlikely.

Disney used to own the *Queen Mary* liner, which was moored at Long Beach, California, and operated as a themed hotel. The company sold the ship in the early 1990s.

The Disney cruise ships will have 880 rooms and a capacity of 2,400 passengers. Most of the crew will be American, but officers and catering staff will include a large proportion

of Europeans. The vessels will be fitted out in Disney style, with a three-storey atrium lobby featuring a sweeping staircase in the grand manner of the great transatlantic ocean liners of the past. There will be a 1,040-seater theatre with Broadway-quality entertainment, plus a cinema and a 5,500 sq ft shopping mall. Three themed restaurants will cater for families, and a dinner restaurant will serve adults only.

Disney plans to sell four-day cruises around the Caribbean, including a stopover at its 1,000-acre island. The ships will be based at Port Canaveral, Florida, about an hour and a half's drive from Walt Disney World in Orlando. The cruise packages will probably include a three or four-night stay at Disney World.

This is part of Disney's new strategy of extending its grip on holidaymakers by offering them vacations other than visits to its theme park resorts. It has recently opened two resort hotels, at Vero Beach in Florida and at Hilton Head Island in South Carolina.

Disney has yet to set the prices for its cruise ships, but it is believed to be aiming at the middle to upper price range rather than the budget sector, where the Caribbean cruise market is already showing excess capacity.

A Disney spokesman said: "We aim to offer the Disney quality and experience rather than just any other cruise operator."

The first cruise brochure will be published in July this year. Bookings for the initial cruises in 1998 will be taken from August.

Ferries suffer as Britons stay at home

BY STEVE KEENAN

THE number of day-trip shoppers taking the ferry to France has plunged by up to 30 per cent this winter.

P&O European Ferries and Stena Line have been hit by a double broadside of a stormy winter and fierce competition from Eurotunnel.

The losses are a big blow for the ferries, which rely on duty-free and on-board sales for at least a quarter of their revenue, and which face increased competition this summer.

In 1995, one million travel-

lers took day-trips in the first three months of the year, the ferry operators filling otherwise empty ships by offering day-trips for as little as £1.

But this year the figure has fallen by more than 250,000, say the ferries, with the miserable weather in January and February partly to blame for keeping people at home.

The scrapping of temporary passports, the strength of the franc and the supermarket price-war in the UK are other factors for the slump.

"Last year, the market hotted up with cheap fares, which coincided with a nice spell of weather in January and February," said Martin Brown, owner of the Grape Shops in Boulogne and Calais.

This year, there are still cheap fares but we have had a run of bad weather through January. It has been fairly quiet in Calais."

One company doing better than 1995 is the car-carrying Le Shuttle service through the Channel Tunnel. Le Shuttle is offering 66 per cent off high-street prices, reducing, for example, a bottle of Gilbey's gin to £4.65.

The company is again extending its sales area at the Folkestone terminal in time for Easter, which will treble its original duty-free space. "We think the 66 per cent offer has attracted 15 per cent additional traffic this winter," said a spokesman.

In February, more than 117,000 cars were carried on Le Shuttle, double the figure in February last year. Nearly 3,000 coaches also travelled last month.

Cross-Channel travellers can buy duty-free goods on the outbound and return journeys, and also spend a day in French supermarkets buying cheap duty-paid goods.

Losses to Customs & Excise were last year estimated at £110 million, with 3 per cent of all beer drunk in Britain imported.

Mike Gates, a director at Hogg Robinson, said there was no doubt the new connections would make train travel more attractive. "It certainly will have an impact. It becomes quite a reasonable option for those on business," he said.

Connection times at Lille between Eurostar and exist-

ing French Railways services would be improved so customers did not have to wait so long, he said.

A Eurostar/TGV service to the Alps, run for skiers for the first time this winter, will be available for a longer period of time next year. And direct Eurostar services to the south of France are planned for the future.

Consortium London and Continental is to take over the running of European Passenger Services, the UK Eurostar operator, in the summer. It is already planning a price war with the airlines. M Dittner said he expected to see a wider range of fares with specialised tickets, such as Apex and Super Apex, similar to those offered by airlines.

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Shadow of drugs case about to lift from troubled runner

Modahl ready to face the world

Andrew Longmore on the rehabilitation of an athlete with Georgia on her mind

Friends ringing the Modahl household over the past ten days have been greeted by an unfamiliar sound. "Hello, this is Diane Modahl . . ." says the voice on the answerphone. They might even have been intercepted by the lady in person.

Talking to a machine might not seem conclusive proof of Modahl's return to society, but enough of the callers have responded with the words: "Hey, Diane, it's good to hear your voice again" to highlight the significance of the deed. When she arrived back from the Commonwealth Games in 1994, not as the 300 metres champion but branded a common drug cheat, Modahl shut herself away from family and friends. She did not answer the phone for 18 months.

Now, Modahl is not only talking to the world again, she is also thinking of competing against it once more, which could prove the hardest task of all. Last weekend she won the national team cross-country championship with Salt Harriers. Today, she flies out to Albuquerque, New Mexico, to continue the long process of mental and physical rehabilitation at a training camp run by her Norwegian-born husband, Vicente.

By Monday morning, if a meeting of the arbitration panel of the International Amateur Athletic Federation this weekend has confirmed her innocence, as is widely expected, the long fight will effectively be over. "I'll believe it when I hear it," Modahl said with understandable force. Only a few scores would then be left unsettled with the British Athletic Federation (BAF), which banned her from athletics for four years after a positive drugs test in Portugal in the summer of 1994, then overturned the ban, on appeal, six months later.

Modahl is suing the BAF for £480,000, but the cost of almost two lost years cannot be expressed in figures, whatever the "for sale" sign outside her house might suggest.

Sitting in her living room,



Family comforts — husband Vicente and daughter Imani — have helped Modahl. Photograph: Barry Greenwood

her husband's arm stretched protectively round her as it has been, spiritually, throughout her difficulties. Modahl recalled her first race back, in the unlikely setting of Derby County Football Club's ground, on a wet and miserable Valentine's Day.

"Even down to the last minute, I was looking for a way out because I still hadn't decided whether I wanted to race again. There was no one around. Then, about 45 minutes before the start, a few people began to arrive, the markers went up and I thought: 'Right then, I'd better warm up.' She won the race and for the first time began to look forward instead of back.

Whether that will mark the first step on the road to full Olympic competition is not quite so clear. Modahl will not commit herself, other than to say it is in the back of her

mind. "I've gone through a lot of different stages," she said. "Initially I was confused, bemused and hurt and I just cut off from everyone. I was introverted and distant, depressed, hysterical. I had lost my belief in human nature."

She felt surrounded by reminders of the case. "I could see my running spikes, see my medals hung up on the walls and Vicente on the phone constantly to the lawyers. It was like being a prisoner, but voluntarily. I didn't really want to go out because people would shout at me: 'Hey, Diane, keep going, we're right behind you,' and even though they meant well, it brought everything back."

Then, as the light started to shine more brightly, I began to be more confident again. I was beginning to talk more to my family and friends and to be

more positive. But I was still asking myself: 'Do I really want to go back to a sport that's done this to me?' I once regarded athletics as fun, easy, enjoyable, motivating. It is a big step trying to recover that magic, because that's what has been taken away from me." At times she talks in the third person, as if Diane Modahl was really someone else altogether.

In a sense she was. In the darkest hours, Vicente had to watch his wife's every move. Once he found her brandishing a two-foot-long Norwegian hunting knife, a present from his mother. At one stage, she stopped running. "When I first got back from Canada, I just ran and ran to release the anger, I suppose. But as the case went on, I found it harder and harder. I would go out and do 100 metres, 200 metres and have to come home."

The birth of her daughter, Imani, (the name is Swahili for "hope") six months ago has brought some sense of perspective without stalling the anger. Athletics will never be her life as it was, just a part of it, along with her roles as student (she completes her final examinations in media studies at Manchester University in May), wife, mother and *côtre célèbre*. Atlanta still seems a long way off.

"Getting back that feeling of running fast and comfortably. That will be the hardest thing. But I'd like to see how far I can go, channel all the negative energy of the last 18 months on to the track and push myself to the limits, not because I am desperate to make the Olympic team, but just to see what Diane Modahl can do." At the age of 29, it is not too late. The spirit of the athlete might yet prove to be her salvation.

England in need of new cricketing structure

From Mr S. J. B. Langdale

Sir, For something like half a century England's Test match record has been disappointing overall, with more matches lost than won against the major Test match-playing countries since 1950.

One thing that is different about cricket in England is the structure of the first-class game, whereby only those who are willing to play cricket full-time become eligible for English teams. This means effectively that these teams have to be chosen from the relatively small pool of 18 county sides.

In other Test match countries people who have not had to stake their all on making a living from county cricket and who play high-grade club cricket much of the time are eligible to graduate to state or provincial sides and then to Test cricket when good enough. Even though the populations of most of these

countries are very much smaller than that of the United Kingdom, they are able effectively to choose their teams from a wider pool.

It is questionable whether Test and county cricket is more important but, since the counties could not maintain their present programmes without revenue from Test matches, there is a strong case for scrapping full-time professional cricket in England and replacing it with the sort of limited provincial or state competitions that exist elsewhere with rather more success than can be claimed for the products of the largely unwatched English county four-day game.

In other Test match countries people who have not had to stake their all on making a living from county cricket and who play high-grade club cricket much of the time are eligible to graduate to state or provincial sides and then to Test cricket when good enough. Even though the popula-

within our national summer sport act on the realisation that our top cricketers play far too much.

When we saw them play in South Africa and then the World Cup, they just looked stale. I understand that the South African cricket authorities have insisted that, if Shaun Pollock is to join Warwickshire, there must be a clause in his contract limiting the amount of cricket he is allowed to play. It is obvious that overseas authorities realise our top players play too much.

It would be very interesting to look at the number of days' competitive cricket that the top English cricketers play in a year and compare this with the top cricketers from the other leading cricketing countries.

Yours faithfully,
BARRY BROWNING,
The Rectory, Roche,
St Austell, Cornwall.

From the Reverend Barry Browning

Sir, I wonder how long it will be before those in authority

One-day superior

From Mr N. J. D. Baptiste

Sir, In cricket, rugby and football England have now achieved the dismal distinction of demonstrating flabby-free playing styles around ten years behind their leading international opponents. Our cricket has seen the most spectacular decline.

I would entirely agree with John Bryant (Bryant's Eye, March 14) that limited-overs one-day cricket must inevitably overtake Test cricket in popularity, if only for practical, commercial and economic considerations.

Who these days wants to pay £30,000 to

watch one day of a five-day Test match which may well

end in a draw, when, for much

the same amount, he can see a

complete international game

with a guaranteed win/lose result?

In my experience the detractors of the one-day game are almost in every case those who have never actually played it. Having played both types of game myself, I have no doubt that the limited-overs version is the more demanding because there is no draw to hide behind if things go badly.

It is also superior because it places equal importance on batting, bowling and fielding.

My ideal format would be a compromise: a two-day, 100-overs-each game under normal rules, with no limitation

on bowlers' overs or field placings and played in whites for the purists. But what a pity that both the England chairman and our captain had to disparage one-day cricket in order to try to excuse England's inept performance.

Yours faithfully,

N. J. D. BAPTISTE,
23 Gladwin Road,

Putney, SW15.

From Dr Valerie Goldberg

Sir, I take John Bryant's point that one-day cricket is a valid sport in its own right, but while I accept that the 30-metre ring for field placing may be necessary to prevent defensive play, I cannot agree with him about the field placing regulations in the first 15 overs.

For me, beautiful strokes played against bowlers restricted in this way are about as meaningful as beautiful strokes played in the nets. In the past, with the possible exceptions of the leg-side fielders rule and the restrictions on bouncers, the laws of cricket relating to the game as played by me have only been altered in attempts to preserve the balance between bat and ball.

Yours faithfully,
VALERIE GOLDBERG,
6 Hollycroft Avenue,
Wembley, Middlesex.

Shades of blue

From Mr Ian Sheldon

Sir, The difference between Oxford University Torpids and Cambridge University Lents, to which Mr Philip Wedmore referred (Sports Letters, March 8), arises from the different rules governing the actions of crews after a bump has occurred.

In Lents the race is over for both crews, whose positions are reversed on the next day. So, for each crew moving up, one must move down.

In Torpids, however, only the crew that has recorded a bump drops out, while the crew that has been bumped must continue rowing. This leads to the possibility of one crew being bumped by many others on the same day, hence the imbalance between risers and fallers. In practice, a drop of more than two places is usually the result of crashing into the bank!

As for which system is better for undergraduates' moral attitudes, one would hope that performance on the sports field has no bearing on the behaviour off it. Some football "fans" might take note.

Yours faithfully,
IAN SHELDON,
University College,
Oxford.

Sports Letters may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5211. They must include a daytime telephone number.

RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY'S THREE MEETINGS

Exeter

Going good to soft

2.10 (2m 21 hole) 1. ALLAHRAKHIA (R) 10.00; 2. R. H. Davies (R) 9.00; 3. S. M. Morris (R) 8.00; 4. D. C. Williams (R) 7.00; 5. J. M. Jones (R) 6.00; 6. J. M. Jones (R) 5.00; 7. J. M. Jones (R) 4.00; 8. J. M. Jones (R) 3.00; 9. J. M. Jones (R) 2.00; 10. J. M. Jones (R) 1.00; 11. J. M. Jones (R) 0.00.

Hunstanton

Going good to soft

2.26 (2m 21 hole) 1. ZAMRAH (Mr D. Darwesh) 21-1; 2. Forcing Two (Mr D. Fitzgerald) 21-1; 3. Stomping (Mr D. Fitzgerald) 21-1; 4. The White Horse (Mr D. Fitzgerald) 21-1; 5. Wreckless Men (Mr D. Fitzgerald) 21-1; 6. Stomping (Mr D. Fitzgerald) 21-1; 7. The White Horse (Mr D. Fitzgerald) 21-1; 8. The White Horse (Mr D. Fitzgerald) 21-1; 9. Stomping (Mr D. Fitzgerald) 21-1; 10. The White Horse (Mr D. Fitzgerald) 21-1; 11. The White Horse (Mr D. Fitzgerald) 21-1; 12. Stomping (Mr D. Fitzgerald) 21-1; 13. The White Horse (Mr D. Fitzgerald) 21-1; 14. The White Horse (Mr D. Fitzgerald) 21-1; 15. The White Horse (Mr D. Fitzgerald) 21-1; 16. The White Horse (Mr D. Fitzgerald) 21-1; 17. The White Horse (Mr D. Fitzgerald) 21-1; 18. The White Horse (Mr D. Fitzgerald) 21-1; 19. The White Horse (Mr D. Fitzgerald) 21-1; 20. The White Horse (Mr D. Fitzgerald) 21-1; 21. The White Horse (Mr D. Fitzgerald) 21-1; 22. The White Horse (Mr D. Fitzgerald) 21-1; 23. The White Horse (Mr D. 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Family trials encourage Cook to overcome the odds

Even years after an horrific fall at Doncaster racecourse prematurely ended the riding career of her father, Aimee Cook is hoping the traditional starting point for a new turf Flat season can signal the fulfilment of dreams to break the mould and become a top jockey.

As the starting stalls burst open at Town Moor this afternoon, the young rider still remembers vividly the moment in 1989 when her heart sank as she discovered how Paul Cook had suffered multiple injuries at Doncaster when Madraco tripped in a deep hole and fell. She remembers his long battle to gain compensation; the demoralising effect on the family and her mother's desperate wish for her not to follow in his footsteps.

If anything the experience has made the 21-year-old even more determined to succeed in a world where her skills alone are not sufficient. If her dreams are to become reality, her sex means she must also overcome the deep prejudice



On the opening day of the new Flat season, Richard Evans meets a female rider with high aspirations

against women which exists on racing's workshop floor.

"I never really speak to people about this because they will just go 'yeah, yeah' but in my mind I would like one day to be riding ten horses a day mid-season when there are two meetings; nice, class horses and I would like to ride in group races. I would love to be the first woman to ride in the Derby, in the Guineas or in another classic."

Articulate, intelligent, and recently returned from a working holiday in the United States, where Julie Krone has shown what female jockeys can achieve, Cook was in full flow before harsh reality struck home. "I'm not sure a woman has ridden in a group race in England."

The mountain to be climbed is enormous and Cook knows it, but the manner in which

she has punched home 11 winners from only 63 rides

to convince Lord Huntingdon, to whose yard she is attached, and others the potential ability is there. Apart from looking the part, she possesses a racing brain.

"It is extremely hard to get rides. Some people like Mark Usher were very good to me last year, but all too often if there is a spare ride going people's attitude is that they want a lad. The prejudice is very much there, whereas in the US if you can ride a horse and show you have the ability and understanding that is all that matters, you are not made to feel unwelcome."

"I am not a feminist and I would never try to say I am as strong as a lad because I am not built like a man. But I have ridden winners and I know it, I am on a horse that can do it, I have got every bit as much determination to get it over the line as anyone else – and there are a lot more ways to do it other than just pure strength."

"I can't bear the thought of being just someone else in racing. I want to be good. I don't know whether my ability will be sufficient, but all I want is a chance. If you are given a chance and you don't take it or grab it, or you are not good enough, that's fair enough; you've had a go. But if you are never given a chance to prove yourself then that is rather sad."

After attending an all-girls' school in Newbury, where she obtained seven GCSEs, the male-dominated world of racing was something of a culture shock. Now she admits to being far tougher, giving as good as she gets. And if there is ever a doubt in her mind, they are soon dispelled by a quick re-read of Julie Krone's biography.

"I save her both times I have

been to the US and she is an inspiration. We rode work together and little things she told me were so helpful. She is so natural on a horse. Not even Frankie [Detorri] can impress me like she can on a horse. Trainers will put her on the toughest horses in their barn, which no-one else can ride, and she will ride it off the buckle end and after a furlong it will be like a little lamb with her."

The Derby and the other classics may be the long-term goal. This year, her ambitions are to land the necessary nine winners to lose her 7/6 claim and to ride for the Queen. In the meantime, she is planning to splash out several hundred pounds on an Equizerizer (mechanical horse), which she can use at home to hone her technique. "I can't really afford it, but I look upon it as an investment."

If the fates are kind, and few would begrudge the latest Cook jockey a slice of good fortune, the dividends could be considerable in the years ahead.



Cook sought Julie Krone's advice on a recent working holiday in the United States

DONCASTER

THUNDERER

1.35 Cuango 3.05 Nwaamis
2.05 Sea God 3.40 Miss Bigwig
2.35 Muchea 4.10 JACKSON HILL (nap)

Newmarket Correspondent: 3.40 PRINCELY SOUND (nap). 4.10 Quality.

GOING: GOOD DRAW: 5F-1M STR, HIGH NUMBERS BEST

1.35 RACING CHANNEL APPRENTICE HANDICAP

(3.027: 1m 4f) (21 runners)

101 (5) 324059 ARTIC COURIER 13.9 (D) (British Promotions) D Cosgrave 5-10-0 D R McCullough 9-11-0
102 (1) 119250 CROWN BRIGHT SOUGHT 13.9 (D) (L) (The Matrix) P Gurney 7-9-12 T Attey 9-11-0
103 (2) 142620 VALENTINE 13.9 (D) (L) (P) (M) (A) (T) (D) (S) (C) (R) (E) (H) (M) (N) (P) (Q) (R) (T) (U) (V) (W) (X) (Y) (Z)
104 (3) 142000 GOLDEN ARROW 12.9 (D) (L) (P) (M) (A) (T) (S) (C) (R) (E) (H) (M) (N) (P) (Q) (R) (T) (U) (V) (W) (X) (Y) (Z)
105 (4) 340200 EIGHT SHARP 12.9 (D) (L) (P) (M) (A) (T) (S) (C) (R) (E) (H) (M) (N) (P) (Q) (R) (T) (U) (V) (W) (X) (Y) (Z)
106 (5) 160444 CHATHAM ISLAND 12.9 (D) (L) (P) (M) (A) (T) (S) (C) (R) (E) (H) (M) (N) (P) (Q) (R) (T) (U) (V) (W) (X) (Y) (Z)
107 (6) 142000 HAMPTON HEIGHTS 14.9 (D) (L) (P) (M) (A) (T) (S) (C) (R) (E) (H) (M) (N) (P) (Q) (R) (T) (U) (V) (W) (X) (Y) (Z)
108 (7) 142000 ADVANTAGE 14.9 (D) (L) (P) (M) (A) (T) (S) (C) (R) (E) (H) (M) (N) (P) (Q) (R) (T) (U) (V) (W) (X) (Y) (Z)
109 (8) 5-16220 MENTALMORAN 14.9 (D) (L) (P) (M) (A) (T) (S) (C) (R) (E) (H) (M) (N) (P) (Q) (R) (T) (U) (V) (W) (X) (Y) (Z)
110 (9) 01-4225 ALMANTARAM 13.9 (D) (L) (P) (M) (A) (T) (S) (C) (R) (E) (H) (M) (N) (P) (Q) (R) (T) (U) (V) (W) (X) (Y) (Z)
111 (10) 01-4225 SARAWAT 299 (D) (L) (P) (M) (A) (T) (S) (C) (R) (E) (H) (M) (N) (P) (Q) (R) (T) (U) (V) (W) (X) (Y) (Z)
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113 (12) 01-4225 PREMIER DANCE 13.9 (D) (L) (P) (M) (A) (T) (S) (C) (R) (E) (H) (M) (N) (P) (Q) (R) (T) (U) (V) (W) (X) (Y) (Z)
114 (13) 01-4225 GOLDEN FROG 13.9 (D) (L) (P) (M) (A) (T) (S) (C) (R) (E) (H) (M) (N) (P) (Q) (R) (T) (U) (V) (W) (X) (Y) (Z)
115 (14) 01-4225 CURLETTAGE 17.9 (D) (L) (P) (M) (A) (T) (S) (C) (R) (E) (H) (M) (N) (P) (Q) (R) (T) (U) (V) (W) (X) (Y) (Z)
116 (15) 5-1152 QUAMBO 7.9 (D) (L) (P) (M) (A) (T) (S) (C) (R) (E) (H) (M) (N) (P) (Q) (R) (T) (U) (V) (W) (X) (Y) (Z)
117 (16) 000403 ROCK GROUP 236 (Edenred) J Pearce 4-9-3... S Dryene 9-11-0
118 (17) 561-61 PREMIER DANCE 13.9 (D) (L) (P) (M) (A) (T) (S) (C) (R) (E) (H) (M) (N) (P) (Q) (R) (T) (U) (V) (W) (X) (Y) (Z)
119 (18) 561-61 HAYA YA KEFRAH 16.9 (D) (L) (P) (M) (A) (T) (S) (C) (R) (E) (H) (M) (N) (P) (Q) (R) (T) (U) (V) (W) (X) (Y) (Z)
120 (19) 000403 HAYA YA KEFRAH 16.9 (D) (L) (P) (M) (A) (T) (S) (C) (R) (E) (H) (M) (N) (P) (Q) (R) (T) (U) (V) (W) (X) (Y) (Z)
121 (20) 000403 SWAN WYN 15.9 (D) (L) (P) (M) (A) (T) (S) (C) (R) (E) (H) (M) (N) (P) (Q) (R) (T) (U) (V) (W) (X) (Y) (Z)
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Long handicap: Hayo Ya Kefra 16.9 (D) (L) (P) (M) (A) (T) (S) (C) (R) (E) (H) (M) (N) (P) (Q) (R) (T) (U) (V) (W) (X) (Y) (Z)
BETTING: 7-1 Cuango, 8-1 Chatton, 13-1 Vaugneter, Golden Arrow, Sase, Artic, Course, 12-1 others.

FORM FOCUS

VANGRIFFER 4/3 to Head Women in Heavies
1.35 EAGLE 4/3 to Head Women in Heavies
1.35 ROSEATE STONE 4/3 to Head Women in Heavies
1.35 FAUCETS FOR MIRVA/HADA DOMESTIC & COMMERCIAL
SHOWER EQUIPMENT LADIES HANDICAP (£3,564; 1m 21 furlongs) (28 runners)

201 (1) 00120- FAIRY KNIGHT 12.9 (D) (L) (P) (M) (A) (T) (S) (C) (R) (E) (H) (M) (N) (P) (Q) (R) (T) (U) (V) (W) (X) (Y) (Z)
202 (2) 17102- WESTERN GEM 12.9 (D) (L) (P) (M) (A) (T) (S) (C) (R) (E) (H) (M) (N) (P) (Q) (R) (T) (U) (V) (W) (X) (Y) (Z)
203 (3) 00120- ROSEATE STONE 12.9 (D) (L) (P) (M) (A) (T) (S) (C) (R) (E) (H) (M) (N) (P) (Q) (R) (T) (U) (V) (W) (X) (Y) (Z)
204 (4) 3105-32 SILKAT 12.9 (D) (L) (P) (M) (A) (T) (S) (C) (R) (E) (H) (M) (N) (P) (Q) (R) (T) (U) (V) (W) (X) (Y) (Z)
205 (5) 100002- BRADLEY BRIGANTE 12.9 (D) (L) (P) (M) (A) (T) (S) (C) (R) (E) (H) (M) (N) (P) (Q) (R) (T) (U) (V) (W) (X) (Y) (Z)
206 (6) 40640- TALENTED 12.9 (D) (L) (P) (M) (A) (T) (S) (C) (R) (E) (H) (M) (N) (P) (Q) (R) (T) (U) (V) (W) (X) (Y) (Z)
207 (7) 001200- METALMORAN 12.9 (D) (L) (P) (M) (A) (T) (S) (C) (R) (E) (H) (M) (N) (P) (Q) (R) (T) (U) (V) (W) (X) (Y) (Z)
208 (8) 001200- WINTER'S LUCK 12.9 (D) (L) (P) (M) (A) (T) (S) (C) (R) (E) (H) (M) (N) (P) (Q) (R) (T) (U) (V) (W) (X) (Y) (Z)
209 (9) 001200- STALLION 12.9 (D) (L) (P) (M) (A) (T) (S) (C) (R) (E) (H) (M) (N) (P) (Q) (R) (T) (U) (V) (W) (X) (Y) (Z)
210 (10) 000404- KING CURIAN 12.9 (D) (L) (P) (M) (A) (T) (S) (C) (R) (E) (H) (M) (N) (P) (Q) (R) (T) (U) (V) (W) (X) (Y) (Z)
211 (11) 001200- GRIMM'S GOLD 21.9 (D) (L) (P) (M) (A) (T) (S) (C) (R) (E) (H) (M) (N) (P) (Q) (R) (T) (U) (V) (W) (X) (Y) (Z)
212 (12) 0145-46 RIVAL QUEEN 31 (D) (L) (P) (M) (A) (T) (S) (C) (R) (E) (H) (M) (N) (P) (Q) (R) (T) (U) (V) (W) (X) (Y) (Z)
213 (13) 0145-46 RIBBLETON 12.9 (D) (L) (P) (M) (A) (T) (S) (C) (R) (E) (H) (M) (N) (P) (Q) (R) (T) (U) (V) (W) (X) (Y) (Z)
214 (14) 0145-46 CALDER RIVER 15.9 (D) (L) (P) (M) (A) (T) (S) (C) (R) (E) (H) (M) (N) (P) (Q) (R) (T) (U) (V) (W) (X) (Y) (Z)
215 (15) 33510- PRINCESS DANIELLE 14.9 (D) (L) (P) (M) (A) (T) (S) (C) (R) (E) (H) (M) (N) (P) (Q) (R) (T) (U) (V) (W) (X) (Y) (Z)
216 (16) 09000- SILVER SAMURAI 15.9 (D) (L) (P) (M) (A) (T) (S) (C) (R) (E) (H) (M) (N) (P) (Q) (R) (T) (U) (V) (W) (X) (Y) (Z)
217 (17) 50000- ROSEATE STONE 17.9 (D) (L) (P) (M) (A) (T) (S) (C) (R) (E) (H) (M) (N) (P) (Q) (R) (T) (U) (V) (W) (X) (Y) (Z)
218 (18) 50000- STALLION 12.9 (D) (L) (P) (M) (A) (T) (S) (C) (R) (E) (H) (M) (N) (P) (Q) (R) (T) (U) (V) (W) (X) (Y) (Z)
219 (19) 000404- CARLITO'S BRIGANTE 13.9 (D) (L) (P) (M) (A) (T) (S) (C) (R) (E) (H) (M) (N) (P) (Q) (R) (T) (U) (V) (W) (X) (Y) (Z)
220 (20) 000404- HAZARD 12.9 (D) (L) (P) (M) (A) (T) (S) (C) (R) (E) (H) (M) (N) (P) (Q) (R) (T) (U) (V) (W) (X) (Y) (Z)
221 (21) 000404- SEVENTEENS LUCKY 12.9 (D) (L) (P) (M) (A) (T) (S) (C) (R) (E) (H) (M) (N) (P) (Q) (R) (T) (U) (V) (W) (X) (Y) (Z)
222 (22) 000404- BALLYRAS 15.9 (D) (L) (P) (M) (A) (T) (S) (C) (R) (E) (H) (M) (N) (P) (Q) (R) (T) (U) (V) (W) (X) (Y) (Z)
223 (23) 000404- DREAM CARRIER 15.9 (D) (L) (P) (M) (A) (T) (S) (C) (R) (E) (H) (M) (N) (P) (Q) (R) (T) (U) (V) (W) (X) (Y) (Z)
224 (24) 000404- BELLA'S BLESSING 15.9 (D) (L) (P) (M) (A) (T) (S) (C) (R) (E) (H) (M) (N) (P) (Q) (R) (T) (U) (V) (W) (X) (Y) (Z)
225 (25) 000404- LAST BARGAIN 15.9 (D) (L) (P) (M) (A) (T) (S) (C) (R) (E) (H) (M) (N) (P) (Q) (R) (T) (U) (V) (W) (X) (Y) (Z)
226 (26) 000404- CAPTAIN MARMALADE 12.9 (D) (L) (P) (M) (A) (T) (S) (C) (R) (E) (H) (M) (N) (P) (Q) (R) (T) (U) (V) (W) (X) (Y) (Z)
227 (27) 20313- DON'T BOMB BROS 12.9 (D) (L) (P) (M) (A) (T) (S) (C) (R) (E) (H) (M) (N) (P) (Q) (R) (T) (U) (V) (W) (X) (Y) (Z)
228 (28) 000404- CARLITO'S BRIGANTE 13.9 (D) (L) (P) (M) (A) (T) (S) (C) (R) (E) (H) (M) (N) (P) (Q) (R) (T) (U) (V) (W) (X) (Y) (Z)
229 (29) 000404- HAZARD 12.9 (D) (L) (P) (M) (A) (T) (S) (C) (R) (E) (H) (M) (N) (P) (Q) (R) (T) (U) (V) (W) (X) (Y) (Z)
230 (30) 000404- SEVENTEENS LUCKY 12.9 (D) (L) (P) (M) (A) (T) (S) (C) (R) (E) (H) (M) (N) (P) (Q) (R) (T) (U) (V) (W) (X) (Y) (Z)
231 (31) 000404- HAZARD 12.9 (D) (L) (P) (M) (A) (T) (S) (C) (R) (E) (H) (M) (N) (P) (Q) (R) (T) (U) (V) (W) (X) (Y) (Z)
232 (32) 000404- CARLITO'S BRIGANTE 13.9 (D) (L) (P) (M) (A) (T) (S) (C) (R) (E) (H) (M) (N) (P) (Q) (R) (T) (U) (V) (W) (X) (Y) (Z)
233 (33) 000404- HAZARD 12.9 (D) (L) (P) (M) (A) (T) (S) (C) (R) (E) (H) (M) (N) (P) (Q) (R) (T) (U) (V) (W) (X) (Y) (Z)
234 (34) 000404- CARLITO'S BRIGANTE 13.9 (D) (L) (P) (M) (A) (T) (S) (C) (R) (E) (H) (M) (N) (P) (

Warm welcome at the last resort for exercise junkies

There are times when you should beware of sport. It can take over your life. This week I have witnessed what happens to otherwise seemingly normal people when they are transported into an environment of total physical training.

Between now and April 21, you will see hundreds padding the streets, preparing their minds and bodies for the challenge of the Flora London Marathon, but if you think that they are obsessive, you should see what the real hard core get up to. Like birds, it seems, they migrate to escape the bitterness of the British climate, and head for the warm-weather training camp.

Picture a sports complex with the very best in international facilities — a full Olympic-size swimming pool, tennis, squash, basketball and badminton courts, football pitches, bikes of every size and specification, a state-of-the-art track and stadium, a windsurfing

lagoon. Then place these lavish facilities in a climate where, even in the middle of March, the weather is as temperate as a British summer's day. Build your complex on an island where there are few counter-attractions to drag you away from the training facilities, and you have what may sound to some a dream — to others, a nightmare.

The training camp, which bills itself as the world's No 1 sports resort, is Club La Santa, on the island of Lanzarote. It is a dream for the full-time sportsman or woman. Here is the ring and the punchbag that Frank Bruno used to prepare for his ill-fated fight with Mike Tyson, there is the track that Linford Christie stalked before the Barcelona Olympics.

This week in the Canary Islands, Liz McColgan, the 10,000 metres world champion and Olympic silver medal-winner, has been fine-tuning for the London Marathon, flowing through sub-five-

minute mile intervals on the track, while Eamonn Martin, winner of the London Marathon in 1993 on his debut over the distance, heads out into the volcanic hills, running step by step with his friend and rival, Jon Solly.

For the professional sportsman, the concept of a specialised training camp has much to commend it. This week, John Woodcock, the former cricket correspondent of *The Times*, has entreated the advantages of a warm-weather cricket academy. He says he has been converted by the Australian experience and reckons the way to solve England's bowling problems may be to set up a winter cricket school where the sun shines brightly. But for the amateur sportsman, with his or her eyes on finishing a marathon or heading off middle age, the luxury of unlimited time and facilities can bring its own problems. The first is the danger of overdoing on exercise.

Much has been written about



the so-called addiction to exercise, and one theory has it that endorphins in the brain are released during strenuous activity, producing an effect very similar to opium. There is really no hard evidence for this, and it is more likely that exercise obsession is largely psychological.

Dr Ian Cockrell, a psychologist at Birmingham University's School of Sport and Exercise Sciences, believes that there are

two forms of exercise addiction — negative and positive. "Positive addiction means that the individual cannot do without exercise, but it enhances the quality of their life," he said. "Negative addiction is when your life takes second place to exercise."

There is no way of testing for addiction to exercise, but if there were, then Club La Santa would be a good place to start. Here, veteran runners, dreaming of breaking three or four hours in the marathon, smile happily at the thought of giving over every waking hour to the pursuit of their dream. And they are not the worst.

First prize in the compulsive training stakes must go to triathletes. They run, they swim, they bike, they haunt the gymnasium. Their programme makes terrifying reading. When they do pause, which is rarely, it is to refuel or rub yet more oil on to their bodies or their bikes.

The marathon men at the camp show disturbingly similar signs of perpetual motion. There are plenty of them. This year more than 65,000 applied to run in the London Marathon. Flora, the new sponsor, says that it wants to bring awareness of the marathon into every kitchen, and it has ploughed £6 million into backing and publicising the race. Alan Storey, the race general manager, blanches at the thought of the extra applications this will bring. The marathon can handle only around 27,000 starters, and Storey has to sign the letters of rejection.

Some believe that rejecting a runner from the marathon is like banning a child from a playground. A pair of American psychiatrists, Samuel Perry and Michael Sacks, say that the real definition of sport is simply play — it is no more than a purposeless activity in a make-believe world. If it has any

purpose, they say, it becomes not play, but work.

For the millions who take part in events such as the London Marathon, the real joy is that this make-believe world is open to all. These people are not full-time athletes, they are housewives, office workers, the young, the old, the executives, the unemployed. Training for them is a mkskeish affair: snatched minutes and miles at lunchtimes, climbing the stairs instead of taking the lift at work. They raise their millions for charity and walk away clutching their medals and their memories to get on with the rest of their busy lives.

Daydreaming of which eight records they might choose to break if they were cast away on a desert island with an all-weather track might be fun. But an hour a day of those rainy British lunchtimes will probably get them round the marathon just as well.

JOHN BRYANT

Plans for Global League add to confusion

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

HOPES of a settlement in the year-long legal battle between the Australian Rugby League (ARL) and the Super League were complicated yesterday by the unexpected emergence of a proposed third force. Disaffected players in Australia have formed a so-called Global League.

A difficult situation was rendered chaotic as the Global League announced its intention to kick off tomorrow week — the same date as the European Super League — featuring 311 players from the outlawed Super League in Australia.

It has the backing, although not the financial support, of the Rugby Football League (RFL) in England. If it takes place — and, as yet, it has no grounds or sponsorship, or a television deal — it will culminate in September in world

that the two new Super League clubs, Adelaide Rams and Hunter Mariners, take part in the ARL competition that starts tomorrow, as the ARL's main bone of contention.

Although compromise is back on the agenda, the situation remains highly volatile. The ARL expects the eight rebel Super League clubs to comply with court orders to field teams in its competition. However, without any recognisable players, the clubs risk further legal action by the ARL if they do not fulfil fixtures.

Sir Geoffrey Lofthouse, the Deputy Speaker of the House of Commons, and a former Featherstone Rovers player, yesterday accepted an invitation to mediate. "I am willing to assist in any positive initiative that may help to bring about an amicable settlement on behalf of the game," he said.

Ken Arthurson, the ARL chairman, wants Sir Geoffrey to chair any meetings between himself and Lindsay. The British Amateur Rugby League Association has also offered to act as peace-broker.

Meanwhile, Lindsay was talking tough. "The truth is that the 311 Super League players and their coaches are determined to run a competition and we must all recognise that," Lindsay said. "It would appear, therefore, there will be two competitions in Australia this season, and certainly the RFL wants to play world club championship matches against clubs sides, such as Canberra and Brisbane."

Colin Love, the ARL solicitor, said that Super League clubs would be expected to sue players to prevent them taking part in an unauthorised competition, in compliance with court orders. Love also said that the ARL would consider suing clubs if they refused to use their players.

The state of club finances in the Super League in Great Britain are revealed as parlous in some cases in a Radio Five Live investigation tonight. Nick Grimoldby, of the Professional Players Association, says on the *On the Line* programme that some are either behind with payments or are not playing players money they are due.

Richard Corsie and Alex

tonight, if their parents let them stay up after 8pm." Brian McClair, their United colleague, wrote in *United* magazine, after a disagreement over a bad pass in a reserve match in October; and, if McClair was writing with tongue in cheek, the picture captures the flavour of two young men who live for their sport.

That, though, reflects the family. The two boys are only the most famous members of a sporting family of rare distinction. Tracey, Philip's twin sister, is an England Under-21 netball international. Neville, himself, the commercial manager of Bury, in the Endsleigh Insurance League, where Jill, his wife, is assistant secretary, was a local cricketer and footballer. Jill reached higher standards, playing for Bury at table tennis and hockey.

If the Charltons are the obvious

footballing comparison, an even more pertinent one is offered by the Comptons, although they did not have a sports-playing sister and played together only in wartime internationals. Denis was a double international, at football and cricket; Leslie kept wicket for Middlesex and played football for Middlesex and played football for

tonight, if their parents let them stay up after 8pm." Brian McClair, their United colleague, wrote in *United* magazine, after a disagreement over a bad pass in a reserve match in October; and, if McClair was writing with tongue in cheek, the picture captures the flavour of two young men who live for their sport.

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Schools under-14s in 1992, he became one of the youngest players to represent Lancashire in the Second XI

championship, and some hoped that, unlike Gary, he would choose cricket rather than football.

Instead, like his older brother, he joined United, and followed him in captaining the youth team, into the United first team, England Under-21s and now into the full squad.

If he plays, he may take some shifting as he is a better full back than his brother, but that is because Gary, for all that he has earned his England cap at right back, is a natural centre half. Ferguson, who likes his central defenders to be tall, took some convincing of that, but he is certain of it now. Will Venable follows the same route in the summer?

"We should really all stop talking about Gary's height, and appreciate his terrific temperament, character, composure and ability to read the game," David Sadler, a former United and England centre half, said recently. He could have been describing both.

Swimmers hampered by gruelling schedule

BY CRAIG LORD

BRITAIN'S leading swimmers are facing a test of their stamina as well as their skills at the Olympic trials in Sheffield. The reason is that the trials will be conducted over the next four days rather than the seven-day period which would have been fairer to the competitors and offered an environment closer to the one which they will encounter in Atlanta.

Almost every other leading swimming nation has opted to have its trials mirror the Olympic Games programme, but Britain has proved penny-pinching over providing conditions that would have better suited its swimmers and prepared them for the summer ahead.

Take Paul Palmer, one of only a handful of realistic Olympic medal hopes. Over the next three days, Palmer, coached by Ian Turner at Lincoln, will race heats and finals of 200, 400 and 1,500 metres freestyle, a total of 4,200 metres of competitive racing. His is one among many such examples at Ponds Forge pool, where the best two in each event qualify for the Games — provided the second-placed swimmer has achieved the cut-off time in one of five designated meetings over the past nine months.

Palmer's entry in the 1,500 metres, an event in which he is a former European junior champion, gives the trials a rare taste of the intensity of competition endured regularly by the likes of Americans and Australians. Only two swimmers per nation can enter each race, so either Palmer, Ian Wilson, who was second at the world short-course championships in December, or Graeme Smith — all three among the top six in the world over the past year — will miss the cut.

A similar fate awaits one of three vying for a berth in the 100 metres backstroke. Martin Harris, the national record-holder, must fend off Neil Willey, the teenager who finished second at the world short-course championships in Harris's absence, and Adam Ruckwood, who is better over 200 metres.

The trials are likely to be a formality for the likes of Sarah Hardcastle, the only British swimmer who holds an international title (800m freestyle world short-course champion), Mark Foster and Nick Gilligham, a bronze in the 200 metres breaststroke making him Britain's only medal winner in the pool at Barcelona four years ago.

FUTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

European Cup Winners' Cup

Quarter-finals, second leg

Feyenoord (2) v Borussia Mönchengladbach (2) ...

Paris Saint-Germain (0) v Parma (1) ...

Rapid Vienna (0) v Dynamo Moscow (0) ...

Real Zaragoza (0) v

Deportivo La Coruña (1) ...

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: Second division: 2 Blackpool (0) v Chesterfield (0); 3 Hartlepool (0) v Shrewsbury Town (0); 4 Stevenage (0) v Sandwell (1); 5 Rushall Olympic (3) v Bedworth (1)

GLENFONN LEAGUE: Premier division: Bridgend (0) v Vale of Glamorgan (0); 2 Wrexham (0) v Wrexham (0); 3 Barry (0) v Cardiff City (0); 4 Hengoed (0) v Pontypridd (0); 5 Caerphilly (0) v Rhondda (0); 6 Treorchy (0) v Taff's Well (0); 7 Pontypridd (0) v Treorchy (0); 8 Hengoed (0) v Rhondda (0); 9 Treorchy (0) v Pontypridd (0); 10 Hengoed (0) v Rhondda (0); 11 Treorchy (0) v Pontypridd (0); 12 Hengoed (0) v Rhondda (0); 13 Treorchy (0) v Pontypridd (0); 14 Hengoed (0) v Rhondda (0); 15 Treorchy (0) v Pontypridd (0); 16 Hengoed (0) v Rhondda (0); 17 Treorchy (0) v Pontypridd (0); 18 Hengoed (0) v Rhondda (0); 19 Treorchy (0) v Pontypridd (0); 20 Hengoed (0) v Rhondda (0); 21 Treorchy (0) v Pontypridd (0); 22 Hengoed (0) v Rhondda (0); 23 Treorchy (0) v Pontypridd (0); 24 Hengoed (0) v Rhondda (0); 25 Treorchy (0) v Pontypridd (0); 26 Hengoed (0) v Rhondda (0); 27 Treorchy (0) v Pontypridd (0); 28 Hengoed (0) v Rhondda (0); 29 Treorchy (0) v Pontypridd (0); 30 Hengoed (0) v Rhondda (0); 31 Treorchy (0) v Pontypridd (0); 32 Hengoed (0) v Rhondda (0); 33 Treorchy (0) v Pontypridd (0); 34 Hengoed (0) v Rhondda (0); 35 Treorchy (0) v Pontypridd (0); 36 Hengoed (0) v Rhondda (0); 37 Treorchy (0) v Pontypridd (0); 38 Hengoed (0) v Rhondda (0); 39 Treorchy (0) v Pontypridd (0); 40 Hengoed (0) v Rhondda (0); 41 Treorchy (0) v Pontypridd (0); 42 Hengoed (0) v Rhondda (0); 43 Treorchy (0) v Pontypridd (0); 44 Hengoed (0) v Rhondda (0); 45 Treorchy (0) v Pontypridd (0); 46 Hengoed (0) v Rhondda (0); 47 Treorchy (0) v Pontypridd (0); 48 Hengoed (0) v Rhondda (0); 49 Treorchy (0) v Pontypridd (0); 50 Hengoed (0) v Rhondda (0); 51 Treorchy (0) v Pontypridd (0); 52 Hengoed (0) v Rhondda (0); 53 Treorchy (0) v Pontypridd (0); 54 Hengoed (0) v Rhondda (0); 55 Treorchy (0) v Pontypridd (0); 56 Hengoed (0) v Rhondda (0); 57 Treorchy (0) v Pontypridd (0); 58 Hengoed (0) v Rhondda (0); 59 Treorchy (0) v Pontypridd (0); 60 Hengoed (0) v Rhondda (0); 61 Treorchy (0) v Pontypridd (0); 62 Hengoed (0) v Rhondda (0); 63 Treorchy (0) v Pontypridd (0); 64 Hengoed (0) v Rhondda (0); 65 Treorchy (0) v Pontypridd (0); 66 Hengoed (0) v Rhondda (0); 67 Treorchy (0) v Pontypridd (0); 68 Hengoed (0) v Rhondda (0); 69 Treorchy (0) v Pontypridd (0); 70 Hengoed (0) v Rhondda (0); 71 Treorchy (0) v Pontypridd (0); 72 Hengoed (0) v Rhondda (0); 73 Treorchy (0) v Pontypridd (0); 74 Hengoed (0) v Rhondda (0); 75 Treorchy (0) v Pontypridd (0); 76 Hengoed (0) v Rhondda (0); 77 Treorchy (0) v Pontypridd (0); 78 Hengoed (0) v Rhondda (0); 79 Treorchy (0) v Pontypridd (0); 80 Hengoed (0) v Rhondda (0); 81 Treorchy (0) v Pontypridd (0); 82 Hengoed (0) v Rhondda (0); 83 Treorchy (0) v Pontypridd (0); 84 Hengoed (0) v Rhondda (0); 85 Treorchy (0) v Pontypridd (0); 86 Hengoed (0) v Rhondda (0); 87 Treorchy (0) v Pontypridd (0); 88 Hengoed (0) v Rhondda (0); 89 Treorchy (0) v Pontypridd (0); 90 Hengoed (0) v Rhondda (0); 91 Treorchy (0) v Pontypridd (0); 92 Hengoed (0) v Rhondda (0); 93 Treorchy (0) v Pontypridd (0); 94 Hengoed (0) v Rhondda (0); 95 Treorchy (0) v Pontypridd (0); 96 Hengoed (0) v Rhondda (0); 97 Treorchy (0) v Pontypridd (0); 98 Hengoed (0) v Rhondda (0); 99 Treorchy (0) v Pontypridd (0); 100 Hengoed (0) v Rhondda (0); 101 Treorchy (0) v Pontypridd (0); 102 Hengoed (0) v Rhondda (0); 103 Treorchy (0) v Pontypridd (0); 104 Hengoed (0) v Rhondda (0); 105 Treorchy (0) v Pontypridd (0); 106 Hengoed (0) v Rhondda (0); 107 Treorchy (0) v Pontypridd (0); 108 Hengoed (0) v Rhondda (0); 109 Treorchy (0) v Pontypridd (0); 110 Hengoed (0) v Rhondda (0); 111 Treorchy (0) v Pontypridd (0); 112 Hengoed (0) v Rhondda (0); 113 Treorchy (0) v Pontypridd (0); 114 Hengoed (0) v Rhondda (0); 115 Treorchy (0) v Pontypridd (0); 116 Hengoed (0) v Rhondda (0); 117 Treorchy (0) v Pontypridd (0); 118 Hengoed (0) v Rhondda (0); 119 Treorchy (0) v Pontypridd (0); 120 Hengoed (0) v Rhondda (0); 121 Treorchy (0) v Pontypridd (0); 122 Hengoed (0) v Rhondda (0); 123 Treorchy (0) v Pontypridd (0); 124 Hengoed (0) v Rhondda (0); 125 Treorchy (0) v Pontypridd (0); 126 Hengoed (0) v Rhondda (0); 127 Treorchy (0) v Pontypridd (0); 128 Hengoed (0) v Rhondda (0); 129 Treorchy (0) v Pontypridd (0); 130 Hengoed (0) v Rhondda (0); 131 Treorchy (0) v Pontypridd (0); 132 Hengoed (0) v Rhondda (0); 133 Treorchy (0) v Pontypridd (0); 134 Hengoed (0) v Rhondda (0); 135 Treorchy (0) v Pontypridd (0); 136 Hengoed (0) v Rhondda (0); 137 Treorchy (0) v Pontypridd (0); 138 Hengoed (0) v Rhondda (0); 139 Treorchy (0) v Pontypridd (0); 140 Hengoed (0) v Rhondda (0); 141 Treorchy (0) v Pontypridd (0); 142 Hengoed (0) v Rhondda (0); 143 Treorchy (0) v Pontypridd (0); 144 Hengoed

Young pretenders challenge world No 1 in her favourite fiefdom

Davies sets the highest standard

FROM PATRICIA DAVIES
IN PHOENIX

EARLIER this year, when JoAnne Carner let it be known she would be standing down as captain of the United States Solheim Cup team, there was a request for volunteers to replace her. Helen Dobson, from Lincolnshire, stood up and brought the house down. Judy Rankin got the job in the end, but the Europeans — plus an exceptional Australian or two — have set out to make her task as difficult as possible.

Their aim was to win every event on the Ladies Professional Golf Association (LPGA) Tour this season, shutting out the Americans. Liselotte Neumann, the Swede with the smoothly cultured swing, won two of the first four tournaments and Karrie Webb, the 21-year-old Australian who won the Westlab Women's British Open last August, won another. The third event, however, was won by Meg Mallon, a cheerful, freckle-faced American.

Mallon, a former US Open champion, did well to win while she could, for the Standard Register Ping event, which starts today at Moon Valley Country Club in Phoenix, Arizona, has become the personal fiefdom of Laura Davies, still the world No 1 according to the Ping leaderboard, the women's equivalent of the Sony rankings.

Davies, now 32, missed the cut in Tucson last week — Neumann won — and was hampered by a bad back, caused, she thought, by an excess of tennis and cricket during her weeks off at home. She also putted poorly — "I hit 17 greens last Friday and was only one under par" — and, clad in a penguin-patterned shirt, gave the putter reps palpitations as she tried out their wares under the desert sun.

Davies and her caddie, her cousin, Matthew, went to Las Vegas for the Bruno v Tyson heavyweight boxing encounter. "It was the best sporting event I've ever been to," Davies, a Bruno fan, said. "The pre-fight build-up was brilliant." Inevitable gambler though she is, she did not have any money on the outcome. "You couldn't get close to the bookies, the queues were 30 deep."



Davies's powerful driving still makes her the player the best of the rest must beat at Moon Valley this week. Photograph: Tony White

superstars such as Bjorn Borg

but secret, cooking, playing with her cat, Nelson, and generally just being normal. It meant she did not play in the Chrysler-Plymouth Tournament of Champions in early January, which drew criticism. "I understand that," Sorenstam said, "but I need a bit of understanding, too. I was mentally drained. I'm a human being and I needed a break. I can't be everywhere and I am going to be out here for years."

Sorenstam admitted she was still "walking on clouds", but she should have little trouble keeping in touch with reality, something that has never bothered the inestimable Muffin Spencer-Devlin, who is still convinced she was King Arthur in another existence. Muffin's recent decision to come out — to admit that she is a lesbian — merited five pages in *Sports Illustrated*. Guinevere, however, was unavailable for comment.

She also picked up, she reckoned, more than 15 awards. She was Athlete of the Year in Sweden, the first golfer to win the country's highest sporting honour, her name now alongside those of



Davies: the trophy was hers in 1994

superstars such as Bjorn Borg and Ingemar Stenmark. Everything came in such a rush that Sorenstam took five weeks off over Christmas and the new year, taking stock of what she had done, planning how to cope, discussing the future with David Esch, her fiancé (the wedding date is set

Feherty back in the old routine

FROM MEL WEBB IN LISBON

THE brilliant one-liner, the rapier-fast jibe aimed so often at himself as at others, has always been David Feherty's stock in trade. But in the blackest times of a miserable winter last year, the Irish golfer's mordant wit made him more Pagliacci than Puck, behind the clown's face there was turmoil and misery being enacted in what has always been an overactive mind.

A grindingly unsuccessful and increasingly unhappy two-year sojourn on the US PGA Tour ended with his professional life in tatters and his personal life in rags. He did not hold on to his player's card, then failed to win it back at the tour's school, and he was just completing a divorce from Caroline, his wife. He lost weight dramatically, and if the one-liners did not completely dry up, they were less frequent and seemed forced. Feherty's emotions were in a turmoil.

It was emotion that led him to announce publicly that his playing career was over. It was emotion that told him that it was no longer worth putting in the effort and getting nowhere.

It was emotion that led him to talk to Sam Torrance, his

close friend and fellow Ryder Cup player, who told him that he was making a mistake.

And it was emotion that returned him to the surroundings that brought him his greatest success, the PGA European Tour. It has been the happiest of returns. In a professional sense, Feherty has come home, has a second and a fourth to his name in four tournaments, and is fourteenth in the European money-list as he goes into his fifth tournament, the Portuguese Open, which starts at Aroeira near here today.

He was asked if he felt himself to be at a crossroads in his darkest moments. "Not so much a crossroads," he said. "My mind was more like Spaghetti Junction, there was so much going on in there."

He was, however, potentially playing the game better than he ever had. "My engine was running perfectly," he said. "The trouble was, there was nobody at the wheel."

Now there is, and he has found himself back on the right road with ambitions — a sixth European tour win for a start, then a place in the next Ryder Cup team. He intends to play a score or more tournaments in Europe, interspersed with visits to his home in Dallas, to be with his sons, Shay and Kory.

He has also found personal happiness again in the person of Anita Schneider, a sales executive from Mississippi whom he met on a blind date and who exercised her Leap Year privilege by proposing to Feherty on February 29.

"What did you say, David?" somebody asked. Long and considered thought, then "I think it went something along the lines of 'Yes, please,' as I recall it." David Feherty is back; and European golf is the better for it.



Feherty: happy again

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 42

ZEITGEIST

(c) The general intellectual, moral, political and cultural spirit of an age. For example, the zeitgeist of today's younger generation includes conservatism, Greenery, equality of opportunity, the computer game, the pop song and the gore film.

FLAGITIOUS

(a) Grossly criminal, utterly disgraceful, shamefully wicked; just about the strongest condemnatory adjective in the book. From the Latin *flagitium* a crime, sin and shockingly bad behaviour. Government reports favour milder epithets such as incompetent, misleading and sophistical. In Rome *flagitium* was punished by throwing a book even rockier than the Scott report at the offender.

CALEFACIENT

(c) A medicinal agent producing a feeling of warmth, such as the military lot of rum before winter night patrol. From the Latin for "warm-making". As you pass round the cognac, you could try saying: "Calefacient, anyone?"

SPHRAGISTICS

(a) The study of engraved seals. From the Greek for such a seal. A useful know-all-dropping term, as in, "When I was reading *Sphragistics* at New Hall." The study might seem inoffensive though obscure, but the cruelty of the original engraving process in a world that disapproves of seal-culling seems barbaric."

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I Nc7+ Qx7 Qxf7+ Bxf7 Bxf7 checkmate. Full marks for I Qxf7+ which is also devastating.

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RADIO CHOICE

Con trick in Eldorado

If the Snakes Don't Get You... Radio 4, 2.00pm.

Paul Tomlinson doesn't use the words, so I will. They are: con trick. Tomlinson learnt the full extent of it when he went out to South Africa to uncover the roots of his ancestors who emigrated to the Cape in 1820. The British Government hit on a way of cutting the lengthening jobless queues. It offered cheap passage for 4,000 British subjects, fooling them into believing that good farming land and security were waiting for them. No Eldorado there, however. The settlers found barren land. Worse, they were used as a buffer against raids from hostile Africans across the border. All in all, it was a shameful chapter in British colonial history.

Soundtrack: Bucks in the USSR. Radio 4, 7.20pm.

Imogen Edwards-Jones wrote *The Taming of the Eagle*, a book about Russia in the first 100 days after communism collapsed. She knew what it was like, having lived and worked there. Tonight, she reports on what is happening in Russia now. If ever she writes a sequel to *The Taming of the Eagle*, she might call it *The Gathering of the Vultures*. The scavengers are the money-driven twenty-somethings from the West whose hungry companies have swooped on Russia and are squeezing the last rouble out of its economy. "Twisted, perverted, young men," an older, wiser Westerner calls them. He says these commercial wideboys are much in need of a bit of civilisation under their belts.

RADIO 1

FM Stereo 4.00am Clive Warren 6.00 Chris Evans 6.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Live in Listen 12.00-12.45pm Newsbeat and at 1.15 The Net 2.00 Nicky Campbell 4.00 Mark Goodier, incl 5.30-5.45 Newsbeat, and at 6.15 The Net 7.00 Evening Session 9.00 Collins and Macone's Hit Parade 10.00 John Peel Midnite 11.00 Clare Sturgess, incl at 12.15am The Net

RADIO 2

FM Stereo 6.00am Sarah Kennedy 6.15 Pause for Thought 7.30 Walks 7.45 Live in Listen 8.15 Pause for Thought 9.30 Ken Bruce incl at 10.00 Pick of the Hits 11.30 Jimmy Young 12.00 Debbie Thrower 3.30 Alex Lester 5.05 Paul Harvey 7.25 Laughter in the Air 7.20 David Alan 9.30 Pauline Quirke 10.00 Showbiz 10.30 Linda 12.00m Sue McGeary, incl at 1.20 Pause for Thought 3.00 Steve Madden

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Report 6.00 The Breakfast Programme 6.55 7.25 Racing preview 8.25 The Magazine 8.30 11.30 Health News 12.00 Midday with Mar incl 12.34pm Moneycheck 1.15 Entertainment News 2.00 Rusco on Five and at 3.15 Prime Minister's Question Time 4.00 National wide, incl 5.45 Entertainment News 7.00 Newsdesk 2.00 Today 2.20 Sport 2.20 Match of the Day 2.30 News in German 4.00 Europe Today 4.20 Business 4.30 Sport 4.45 BBC English 10.45 Off the Shelf 11.00 Newsdesk 11.30 World Ranking 12.00 Newsdesk 12.05 Good Books 9.00 News 10.00 Sports 10.15 Focus on Sport 10.30 BBC English 6.30 News in German 7.00 News 7.01 Outlook 2.00 Newsdesk 2.15 John Peel 8.00 Newsbeat 8.05 News 9.05 Newsdesk 9.15 Broadcast 9.20 BBC News 10.00 Europe Today 10.30 Take Five 11.15 World Newsdesk 12.00am On the Move 12.45 Britain Today 1.00 News 1.10 Preview Review 1.15 Worldwide 1.20 Global Concerns 2.00 News 2.20 2.45 Drama 3.00 World News 3.15 Sport 3.30 Focus on Path 4.00 Newsdesk 4.30 Europe Today

WORLD SERVICE

All times in GMT. 5.00am Wednesday 5.30 Europe Today 6.00 Newsdesk 6.30 Europe Today 7.00 News 7.15 Off the Shelf 7.20 Network 12.30 World News 8.10 Words of Faith 8.15 Composer of the Month 8.30 Good Books 9.00 News 10.00 Sports 10.15 Focus on Sport 10.30 BBC English 10.45 Off the Shelf 11.00 Newsdesk 11.30 World Ranking 12.00 Newsdesk 12.05 Good Books 12.15 Britain Today 12.30 Assignment 1.00 Newsdesk 2.00 Europe Today 2.05 Outlook 2.20 Match of the Day 2.30 News in German 4.00 Europe Today 4.20 Business 4.30 Sport 4.45 BBC English 6.30 News in German 7.00 News 7.01 Outlook 2.00 Newsdesk 2.15 John Peel 8.00 Newsbeat 8.05 News 9.05 Newsdesk 9.15 Broadcast 9.20 Global Concerns 2.00 News 2.20 2.45 Drama 3.00 World News 3.15 Sport 3.30 Focus on Path 4.00 Newsdesk 4.30 Europe Today

CULTURAL FM

4.00am Mark Griffiths 6.00 Mike Read 6.15 Howard Keel 12.00 Simon Simon 2.00 Philip Catherine 3.00 Jamie Clegg 6.00 November 6.30 Sonatas 7.00 Travel Guide 8.00 Evening Concert includes Stravinsky (The Rite of Spring) 10.00 Michael Mapple 1.00am Mel Cooper

VIRGIN RADIO

6.00am Russ 'n' Jono 6.00 Richard Skinner 12.00 Graham Dene 4.00pm Nicky Home 7.30 Paul Coyle 10.00 Mark Forrest 2.00-6.00am Robin Banks

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, Onslow (String Quartet in B minor, Op 40); Schubert (Symphony No 8 in B minor, Unfinished); Britten (Four Sea Interludes); Peter Grimes (Song for Voice, Double Chorus); Concerto No 1 in D minor; Cole Porter (Snake in the Grass); Bach (Cantata No 140, Wachet Auf, ruft uns die Stimme)

9.00 Morning Collection with Paul Gambaccini; Telemann (Suite: Der Quodlibet und der Hirsch); Mendelssohn (Overture, Lieder ohne Worte); Mussorgsky (The Nursery, excerpts); Schumann (Symphony No 3 in E flat)

10.00 Musical Encounters. Prokofiev (Tombeau sur la mort de M. Blanche); Capriccio (Vivaldi); Overture of the Witches' Dance; Beethoven (String Quartet in F, Op 135); 10.35 Massen (Sing Requiem, No 4); Mozart (String Quintet in D); Martin (Symphony No 4)

12.00 Composers of the Week: The Court of Frederick the Great. Original music by Frederick himself; C. P. E. Bach, C. H. Graun, J. A. Hasse and Mozart

1.00 Aria and Affections. Highlights of late-Baroque opera (2/4) Radio Showcase 2.05 Something to Think About 2.40 Music Workshop 3.00 Ragtime 3.20 The Fifteen's Made for TV. Melvyn Bragg looks back at an edition of Monitor

3.25 Royal College of Music Festival 1995. The opening concert from last year's festival. Michael Torke (Ash); Michael Torke (String Quartet in D minor, Op 44); Suk (Sonata for strings in E flat, Op 6 /)

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping Forecast (LW only) 6.00 News Briefing 6.10 Farming Today 6.30 Prayer for the Day, with Dr Christine Trevor 7.00-7.25 8.00 News 7.25 8.25 Sports 7.45 Thought for the Day, with John Newbury 8.40 Yesterday in Parliament 8.58 Weather 9.00 News 9.05 The Moral Maze 10.00 Short Story: A Little of What You Want (Fiction) 10.15 This Scarpito Is Mine (LW only) 10.30 Woman's Hour, Introduced by Jenni Murray 11.30 From Our Own Correspondent 12.00 News You and Yours. With Chris Cridland 12.25 Sports and Film Studios. Film historian John Huntley tours around the sites of Britain's film studios. This programme features Bernard Vorhaus, director at Twickenham Studios in the 1930s-1950s Weather 1.00 The World at One, with Nick Groom 1.40 The Archers (1.55 Shipping Forecast) 2.00 Never If the Snares Don't Get You... See Choice 3.00 News; The Afternoon Shift. With Dame Deborah 4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope, Paul Allen sees Twee Army Men, directed by Harold Prince, Bristol, and talks to Ian McEwan, Hugo and Anna Massey about their roles in Mary Stuart

4.45 Short Story: Speechless by Rachel Billington. Read by John Hartley, live from the London Book Fair

5.00 PM. With Chris Lowe and Jackie Hardgrave

5.45 Early Political Broadcast by the Conservative Party 5.50 Shipping Forecast 5.55 Weather

6.00 Six O'Clock News

Violent men, tender men and misfits

When the next television set is delivered and I find that the man on the Taiwanese assembly line has omitted the V for Violence chip, I shall ring up Virginia Bottomley and she will arrive in her little blue van and her stinky blue overalls, wearing a baseball cap back to front.

She will unscrew the my set and before she can fit the V-chip in exchange for 60p, I shall hand her £1.20 and she will say: "Wossat, guv?" And I shall say: "That is for the P for Pointless chip, which I require in addition to the V for Violence chip. Will that be four sugars, sixpence?"

After Virginia, in her sturdy Reeboks, has squelched out of sight across the mudslide that is my drive, my life will change. No longer will I glance at the television listings, say the dread words "this looks interesting" and spend the next hour wishing I had

painted the dog or taken the kennel for a walk.

No, the P-chip will free me from inanity, release me from (especialy) documentaries that start nowhere and finish up nowhere else. If you want the blunt truth in bold type, I shall be released from the likes of *Modern Times*: Tracy and Joey (BBC2).

The root of this tedious, pretentious pieces of nothing, shown last night, was a real tragedy. At Christmas 1994, Tracy Mertens, aged 31, was abducted in Birmingham by two men who took her to a church in Cheshire. There, they set fire to her. Tracy lived for 16 hours. So bad were her burns that when the hospital put her on a drip, the fluids leached out through her skin.

Joy Kavanagh, a known drug addict, had been her partner for 15 years and the police believe the two abductors were actually looking for him. It probably had some-

thing to do with money. The case was heavily publicised at the time, nobody was ever caught and although Joey was certainly not involved in the murder, he refuses to say whether he knows who might have done it.

So tragic. But *Modern Times* got no further than the police have. The programme played every filmic gimmick, slow motion, black and white, slow pans over mundane artefacts, but none served to hide the fact that *Modern Times* knew nothing worth knowing. All the programme did was retrace the old ways of this drab vehicle, a tale of low-life, monosyllabic misfits in which the only people one cared about, apart from the dead Tracy, were the couple's two children, smushing, bemused kids adrift in the flatsom of their father's life.

Modern Times asked no new questions, such as how come these

REVIEW



Peter Barnard

male angle on inter-war courtship and one man's angle on violence towards women, the latter in a curious little ten-minute show called *A Bad Time to be a Man*.

Curious because the man who made the film was shown but not identified by name. Therefore everyone who recognises him will know who he is but the rest of us, not recognising him, might as well know his name because we aren't going to meet him anyway.

The man in question had been brought up in a home without men and had gone into the Army, where he discovered that playing chess relieved violent emotions. These had surfaced again in his marriage but he found treatment and cure, if cure there be.

Routine stuff. So was his concluding statement that "extremist" feminism had "caused men to feel inadequate and insecure". I would have thought there was more to male insecurity than that but this

was turning into a night when more questions were left hanging than received answers.

If you could stand any more men (well, ITV had a football match), *A Man's World: The Lover* (BBC2) had a lot more going for it. This, the third in a series about attitudes to masculinity in the first half of the century, focused on courtship in the inter-war

liaisons, albeit slowly. Geordie Todd, a retired North Shields trawlerman, told how he courted his wife-to-be for five years: it was a year before he was allowed to touch her. Geordie was a patient man. "I wanted someone to look up to. I just wanted to care for her."

Such sentiments can be made to sound quaint, but even in the hurly burly, grab-a-gurgle of modern life, tenderness is surely not out of fashion. The trouble with men, as this series shows, is unchanged: we are better at tenderness when reflected on tranquillity than at the moment it might do some good.

Frank Davies said in the film that his wife was always wanting him to say that he loved her. He wanted him to say so. "Now and again I'd blurt it out," Frank said. "When I'd had a drink."

• *Matthew Bond is on holiday*

6.00am *Business Breakfast* (5315)

7.00 BBC Breakfast News (Ceefax) (76686)

9.00 *Breakfast News Extra* (Ceefax) (67353)

9.20 *Can't Cook, Won't Cook* (s) (2161711)

9.45 *Kilroy* (s) (898526) 10.30 *Good Morning* (s) (26112)

12.00 *News* (Ceefax), and weather (2012131)

12.05pm *Tumabout* (s) (5435773)

12.30 *Going for a Son* (s) (58580)

1.00 *One O'Clock News* (Ceefax) (79773)

1.30 *Regional News and Weather* (23114763)

1.40 *Neighbours* (Ceefax) (s) (9463888)

2.00 *Pebble Mill* (s) (63143573) 2.40 *The Flying Doctors* (Ceefax) (s) (1055265)

3.30 *The New Yogi Bear Show* (r) (2718153)

3.35 *The Morph Files* (s) (5722905)

3.45 *Dinobabies* (6786052) 4.10 *Highlander* (Ceefax) (s) (3136173) 4.35 *The Really Wild Show* (Ceefax) (s) (272886) 5.00 *Newaround* (Ceefax) (3577112) 5.10 *Grange Hill* (Ceefax) (s) (1187860)

5.35 *Neighbours* (r) (Ceefax) (s) (819841)

6.00 *Six O'Clock News* (Ceefax) and weather (711)

6.30 *Regional News magazines* (179)

7.00 *Top of the Pops* (Ceefax) (s) (3763)

7.30 *EastEnders*. Everyone is invited to Peggy's birthday party (Ceefax) (s) (247)

8.00 *Allen Empire: War of the Worlds*

Although disease-carrying mosquitoes are the world's biggest killers, most insects support human beings in unimaginable ways: from tiny bees that support the American cattle industry to insects as gourmet food items. This programme, the last in the series, reveals insects in a new light (Ceefax) (s) (6773)

8.30 *Auntie's Sporting Bloomers*. Terry Wogan presents a look at the trials and tribulations of sports personalities in several different fields (s) (5808)

9.00 *Party Broadcast* by the Conservative Party (712686)

9.05 *News* (Ceefax), regional news and weather (129792)

9.35 *Absolutely Fabulous*. Edina and Patsy go on holiday to Provence but find the language barrier is the least of their problems. With Jennifer Saunders and Joanna Lumley (r) (Ceefax) (s) (721344)

10.05 *Mistresses: The Woman Scorned*. (3/3) (Ceefax) (s) (204315) N.J.: 10.05 *Spotlight* 10.35 *Mistresses* 11.25 *Question Time* 12.25 *Film: Breaking Point* 1.55 *Weather WALES*: 10.05 *The State* (242402) 10.35 *Mistresses* (467957) 11.25 *Question Time* (714537) 12.25 *Film: Happy Together* (543008) 2.05 *News* (243938)

10.55 *Question Time*. David Dimbleby is joined by Lord Tengnaght, Christina O'Done and MPs Teresa Gorman and Jack Straw (Ceefax) (4848518)

12.00 *Film: Happy Together* (1990) starring Patrick Dempsey and Helen Slater. College comedy about two very different students who are forced to share a room. Directed by Mel Damski (585715)

1.35am *Weather* (7962826)

6.00am *Open University: Maths Modelling* (5953792) 6.25 *Animal Behaviour* (5958559) 6.50 *Catalysis Against Pollution* (6797957)

7.15 *Breakfast News* (699247)

7.30 *Stringray* (r) (Ceefax) (s) (5305792) 8.25 *Tales of the Tooth Fairies* (r) (1823641)

8.30 *Puppydog Tales* (r) (5772228)

8.40 *The Record* (s) (6913063)

9.05 *Daytime on Two: Seeing Through Science* (2148860) 9.30 *Leisure Lexicon* (9083402) 9.45 *Over the Moon* (9082657)

10.00 *Playdays* (4420179) 10.25 *Storytime* (4251268) 10.45 *Science* (8487262) 11.05 *Space Ark* (6059376)

11.15 *In Living Memory* (9618608) 11.35 *Landmarks* (8540044) 12.00 *Techno* (9051063) 12.15 *Lunchtime News* (23855501) 1.25 *Technology Starters* (48486179) 1.40 *Numberline* (94654131)

2.00 *Tales of the Tooth Fairies* (r) (4941044) 2.05 *Puppydog Tales* (r) (4940315)

2.10 *The Andrew Neil Show* (s) (4090711)

3.00 *News* (Ceefax), weather (1878327) 3.05 *Westminster* (Ceefax) (s) (6579112)

3.55 *News* (Ceefax) (4475989)

4.00 *Today's the Day* (s) (978) 4.30 *Ready, Steady, Cook* (s) (850) 5.00 *The Oprah Winfrey Show* (Ceefax) (s) (1816574)

5.15 *The World Figure Skating Championships* (s) (840711)

6.00 *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine* (Ceefax) (s) (284518)

6.45 *The O Zone* (s) (887063)

7.00 *Waiting for God* (r) (Ceefax) (s) (8995)

7.30 *First Sight* (889): N.J.: 7.30 *Now You're Talking* 7.55 *Our Roving Reporter* 8.00 *8.30 Personal Visions: WALES*: 7.30 *The Way It Is*: EAST: 7.30 *Midlands Report*: NORTH, NORTH-EAST, NORTH-WEST: 7.30 *Close Up North*; SOUTH: 7.30 *Close Up West*

8.00 *Parsons on Class: Keeping Up with the Joneses* (Ceefax) (s) (4315)

8.30 *Top Gear*. Jeremy Clarkson and Andy Wilman team up to try Siamese bang racing (Ceefax) (s) (6150)

8.30am *Reputations: Joy Adamson — Born Wild?* (Ceefax) (s) (76860)

10.00 *Whatever Happened to the Likely Lads?* (r) (Ceefax) (44839)

10.30 *Political Broadcast* by the Conservative Party (Ceefax) (s) (471890)

10.35 *Nightshift* (Ceefax) (80889)

11.15 *Last Review* (s) (508063)

12.00 *The Midnight Hour* (s) (56396)

12.30am-6.00 *The Learning Zone*

7.00pm *VideoPlus+* and *the Video PlusCodes*

The numbers next to each TV programme listing are *Video PlusCode* numbers, which allow you to programme your video recorder to record specific channels. Handset. Tap in the Video PlusCode for the programme you wish to record. *VideoPlus+ (+)*, *PlusCode* (+) and *Video Programmer* are trademarks of Gemstar Development Ltd.

Joy Adamson and friend (9.00pm)

9.00 *Reputations: Joy Adamson — Born Wild?* (Ceefax) (s) (76860)

10.00 *Whatever Happened to the Likely Lads?* (r) (Ceefax) (44839)

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11.15 *Last Review* (s) (508063)

12.00 *The Midnight Hour* (s) (56396)

12.30am-6.00 *The Learning Zone*

7.00pm *VideoPlus+ (+)*, *PlusCode* (+) and *Video Programmer*

SKY MOVIES GOLD

4.00pm *Sorry, Wrong Number* (1948) (s) (717137) 4.25 *Figure Skating* (1989) (s) (1027711) 5.00 *Aerobics* (2053) 6.00 *Live Figure Skating* (71624)

6.00pm *10.00 Denim: Once II* (1992) 6.30 *Denim: Once III* (1993) 1.25-2.40am *Documentary* (1992)

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

6.00am *The Librarian* (1989) (s) (781120) 6.30 *Thimbles* (0) (1077226) 10.00 *The Black Rose* (1989) (s) (12792) 12.00 *The Scarlet Letter* (1983) (s) (28895) 12.30pm *Final Days of the Romanovs* (1992) 1.00 *Standards & Practices* (1992) 1.30 *The Art of the Arts* (5623265) 1.35-2.40am *Mercury Mission* (1992) 2.45 *Princess* (1992) 3.00 *Shameless* (1992) 3.30 *Angela Lansbury* (1992) 3.45 *Angela Lansbury* (1992) 4.00 *Mercury* (1992) 4.15 *Angela Lansbury* (1992) 4

